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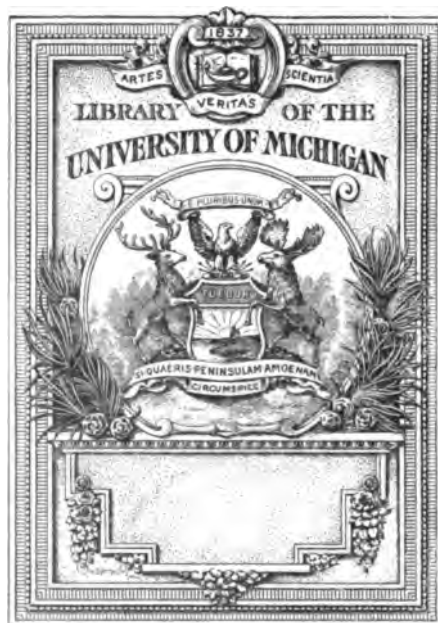
For 1906

SIXTH VOLUME

CONTAINING
DEBATES IN BOTH HOUSES
TO THE 11th DECEMBER 1906



PRINTED AND
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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

COMMENCING WITH THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

62 VICTORIÆ.

VOLUME LXXI,

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM

THE EIGHTH DAY OF MAY

TO

THE NINETEENTH DAY OF MAY

1899.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED,

UNDER CONTRACT WITH HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

BY

WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, LONDON

1899.

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<i>The Chief Secretary for</i>	<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) ...</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Ireland (Mr. G. W.</i>	<i>Mr. W. Redmond (Clare, E.) ...</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Balfour, Leeds, Central) 55</i>	<i>Mr. Clancy (Dublin Co., N.) ...</i>	<i>60</i>

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AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) —Bill for establishing a Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction in Ireland, and for other purposes connected therewith, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	60
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Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill —"For establishing a Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction in Ireland, and for other purposes connected therewith," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time on Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 180.)... ..	61
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London Government Bill—Considered in Committee.

Clause 2 :—

Amendment again proposed, after the words last added, to add the words—

"(b) The Local Government Board may, on request made by a borough council in pursuance of a resolution of the council passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting of the council duly convened for the purpose, make an Order directing that the whole of the councillors shall retire together on the ordinary day of election in every third year, and may on like request rescind any such Order."—(*Captain Jessel.*)

Question again proposed—"That those words be there added."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 1, to leave out the word "may," and insert the word "shall."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed—"That the word 'may' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	61	<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	62
		<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	62

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 3, after the word "present," to insert the words "and voting."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and voting' be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	63	<i>Mr. Burdett-Coutts (Westminster)</i>	64
<i>Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.)</i>	63	<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	64
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	63	<i>Lord E. Fitzmaurice (Wilts, Cricklade)</i>	65
<i>Captain Jessel (St. Pancras, S.)</i>	63	<i>Mr. Stuart-Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam)</i>	65
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	63	<i>Mr. R. Wallace (Perth)</i>	65
<i>Mr. Stuart (Shoreditch, Hoxton)</i>	64	<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	65
<i>Mr. Courtney (Cornwall, Bodmin)</i>	64	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	65
<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	64	<i>Mr. Courtney</i>	66
		<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	66
		<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	66
		<i>Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.)</i>	66
		<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	66

Question put, and agreed to.

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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 4, after the word 'purpose,' to insert the words, 'Provided that such majority is not less than the majority of the whole council.'"—(*Mr. Cohen.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Dillon</i>...	...	66	<i>Mr. R. G. Webster</i> (<i>St. Pancras,</i>	
<i>Mr. Stuart</i>...	...	67	<i>E.</i>)	68
<i>Mr. Marks</i> (<i>Tower Hamlets,</i>			<i>Sir H. H. Fowler</i> (<i>Wolverhampton,</i>	
<i>St. George's</i>)	...	67	<i>ton, E.</i>)	68
<i>Captain Sinclair</i> (<i>Forfar</i>)	...	67	<i>Sir J. Blundell Maple</i> (<i>Camberwell, Dulwich</i>)	68

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 209 ; Noes, 117. (Division List, No. 120.)

Words, as amended, added.

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last added, to add the words, 'Provided also that any person possessing the necessary qualification for election as a member of one of the metropolitan borough councils shall be qualified to be elected either as councillor, alderman, or mayor of any borough council within the administrative county of London.'"—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	72	<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	...	74
<i>Mr. Steadman</i> (<i>Tower Hamlets, Stepney</i>)	...	72	<i>Mr. Trevelyan</i> (<i>Yorkshire, W. R., Elland</i>)	...	74
<i>Mr. Marks</i>...	...	73	<i>Mr. Bartley</i> (<i>Islington, N.</i>)	...	74
<i>Mr. J. Samuel</i> (<i>Stockton</i>)	...	74	<i>Mr. Whitmore</i> (<i>Chelsea</i>)	...	75
<i>Captain Norton</i> (<i>Newington, W.</i>)	...	74			

Amendment amended, by leaving out the words, "either as councillor" and the words "or mayor."

Question proposed—

"That the words, 'Provided also, that any person possessing the necessary qualification for election as a member of one of the metropolitan borough councils shall be qualified to be elected alderman of any borough council within the administrative county of London' be there added."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Stuart</i>...	...	75	<i>Mr. Marks</i>	...	80
<i>Mr. Goulding</i> (<i>Wiltshire, Devizes</i>)	...	77	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	81
<i>Mr. Bartley</i>	...	77	<i>Mr. H. S. Samuel</i>	...	82
<i>Mr. Haldane</i> (<i>Haddingtonshire</i>)	...	78	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	82
<i>Mr. H. S. Samuel</i> (<i>Tower Hamlets, Limehouse</i>)	...	78	<i>Sir J. Blundell Maple</i>	...	82
<i>Lord Hugh Cecil</i> (<i>Greenwich</i>)	...	78	<i>Colonel Hughes</i> (<i>Woolwich</i>)	...	82
<i>Captain Norton</i>	...	79	<i>Mr. R. G. Webster</i>	...	82
<i>Mr. Kimber</i> (<i>Wandsworth</i>)	...	79	<i>Mr. Goddard</i> (<i>Ipswich</i>)	...	83
			<i>Mr. Hubbard</i> (<i>Lambeth, Brixton</i>)	...	83
			<i>Mr. S. Samuel</i>	...	84
			<i>Mr. Cohen</i>	...	84

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 134 ; Noes, 221. (Division List, No. 121.)

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Amendment proposed, after the words last added, to add the words—

“Provided that at every election of councillors under this Act the poll ‘if any) shall commence at 8 o’clock in the forenoon, and be kept open till ten o’clock in the afternoon of the same day, and no longer.”—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there added.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	87	<i>Captain Norton</i>	91
<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	88	<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i> (<i>Gloucester,</i>	
<i>Mr. Spicer</i> (<i>Monmouth</i>		<i>Forest of Dean</i>)	92
<i>Boroughs</i>)	89	<i>Mr. Sydney Buzton</i>	92
<i>Mr. Bartley</i>	89	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	93
<i>Mr. Soames</i> (<i>Norfolk, S.</i>) ...	89	<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	93
<i>Mr. Pickersgill</i>	89	<i>Mr. Steadman</i>	94
<i>Mr. John Burns</i> (<i>Battersea</i>)	90	<i>Mr. Maddison</i> (<i>Sheffield, Bright-</i>	
<i>Mr. Asquith</i> (<i>Fife, E.</i>) ...	90	<i>side</i>)	94
<i>Mr. Bousfield</i> (<i>Hackney, N.</i>)	90		

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“To leave out from the word ‘till,’ to the end thereof, in order to add the words, ‘eight o’clock or nine o’clock in the afternoon if the council at a previous meeting shall so decide.’”—(*Mr. Bousfield.*)

Question, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment,” put and agreed to... .. 96

Question put—

“That the words ‘Provided that at every election of councillors under this Act the poll (if any) shall commence at eight o’clock in the forenoon, and be kept open till ten o’clock in the afternoon of the same day, and no longer’ be there added.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes 76 ; Noes 161. (Division List, No. 122).

Question proposed, “That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Pickersgill</i>	97	<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	99
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	98		

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, added to the Bill.

Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 22, after the words “held on,” to insert the words “the Saturday next following.”—(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Attorney-General</i> (<i>Sir</i>		<i>Mr. Lowles</i> (<i>Shoreditch, Haggerston</i>)	103
<i>Richard Webster, Isle of</i>		<i>Captain Norton</i>	103
<i>Wight</i>)	100	<i>Mr. R. G. Webster</i>	104
<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	101	<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	104
<i>Mr. Cohen</i>	101		
<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	102		

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 77 ; Noes, 173. (Division List, No. 123.)

Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 22, to leave out the word “November,” in order to insert the word “May.”—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘November’ stand part of the clause.”

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	...	107	<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	108
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	...	107	<i>Mr. Lough</i>	108

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes 189 ; Noes 84. (Division List, No. 124)

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, after ‘ council ’ to insert ‘ who shall also fix a corresponding date for the first elections for mayors and aldermen. ’ ”—(*Sir Richard Webster.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, line 24, at end, to insert, ‘ The first meeting of all the newly elected borough councils shall be held within three weeks after the election, and in the evening after the hour of six p.m. ’ ”—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	...	111	<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	...	112
<i>Mr. Bousfield</i>	...	112	<i>Mr. Lough</i>	...	112
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	...	112	<i>Mr. Loules</i>	...	112
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	...	112	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	113

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, line 24, after ‘ council ’ to insert, ‘ All members of elective vestries and district boards in the County of London in office on the first day of January in the year 1900 shall continue in office till the appointed day. ’ ”—(*Mr. Bousfield.*)

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	113
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“ In Clause 3, page 2, line 27, to insert, ‘ The ordinary day of election of the mayor and aldermen shall be the ninth day of November, or, if that day be a Sunday, then the following day. ’ ”—(*Mr. Stuart-Wortley.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, line 28, to leave out Sub-section (3), in order to insert, ‘ (3) The lists of Parliamentary voters, including the ownership lists of voters, and the lists of county electors, shall, in each year after the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, be revised in every metropolitan borough between the eighth day of September and the thirtieth day of September, both inclusive, and shall be revised as soon as possible after the seventh day of September. Such revised lists shall be printed, and signed, and placed on sale by the town clerk appointed under this Act before the sixteenth day of October, and shall come into operation as the register of borough electors on the first day of November next following, and the law relating to the register of electors shall, with the necessary modifications, apply accordingly. ’ ”—(*Captain Jessel.*)

Question proposed, “ That Sub-section (3) stand part of the clause.”

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	...	114	<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	116
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	...	115	<i>Mr. Lough</i>	116
<i>Mr. Stuart...</i>	...	115	<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	...	...	116
<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	...	115	<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	...	...	116
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	...	115				

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 3, page 2, line 28, to leave out from ‘shall’ to ‘be’ in line 29, and insert, ‘after the appointed day.’”—(*Mr. Bousfield.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	...	117	<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	...	...	117
<i>Mr. Stuart...</i>	...	117	<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	...	...	117

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question—“That ‘1889’ be left out, in order to insert ‘1900,’”; put and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 3, page 2, line 31, to leave out ‘parochial’ and insert ‘borough.’”

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	118
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“After ‘Register,’ to insert, ‘for the purpose of a borough election.’”

Amendment agreed to.

Question, “That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill,” put, and agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 4, page 2, line 36, after ‘appointed day’ to insert ‘which shall be the same in all cases.’”—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	118
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 4, page 2, line 35, after ‘board,’ to insert, ‘and every body of overseers and other bodies discharging the duties of overseers as regards the making and collection of the rates.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	...	...	119	<i>Mr. Burdett-Coutts</i>	...	119
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	...	...	119			

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 4, page 3, lines 1 and 2, to leave out the words ‘and the clerk of the council shall be called the town clerk.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	119
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Amendment negatived.

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Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 4, page 3, line 3, to omit the words, 'Provided, that in the case of borrowing powers so transferred, the sanction of the Local Government Board shall be substituted for the sanction of the London County Council.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	120	<i>Sir J. Blundell Maple</i> ...	124
<i>Mr. Cohen</i> ...	122	<i>Sir Richard Webster</i> ...	124
<i>Mr. Stuart</i> ...	123	<i>Mr. Asquith</i> ...	125
<i>Mr. Lowles</i> ...	124	<i>Mr. John Burns</i> ...	125

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"The insertion of the words,—'Provided, that if the London County Council refuse their sanction to a loan, or attach conditions to their sanction, an appeal shall lie to the Local Government Board, whose decision shall be final.'"—(*Sir Richard Webster.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 12, after the word 'council,' to insert the words, 'and the council shall have and exercise the powers of any such Act over the whole area of their borough.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	126	<i>Mr. Asquith</i> ...	126
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i> ...	126	<i>Sir Richard Webster</i> ...	126
<i>Sir Richard Webster</i> ...	126		

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress : to sit again To-morrow.

Supreme Court (Appeals) Bill [Lords] -- Considered in Committee ; Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow ... 127

Solicitors Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee, and reported, as amended ; to be considered To-morrow ... 127

FLOODS PREVENTION—Bill to give further powers to County Councils with a view to the prevention of Floods, and other damage arising from Rivers and Watercourses, ordered to be brought in by Colonel Milward, Sir John Dorington, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Mr. Humphreys-Owen, Mr. Hobhouse, and Mr. Bill ... 128

Floods Prevention Bill—"To give further powers to County Councils with a view to the Prevention of Floods, and other damage arising from Rivers or Watercourses," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 181]. ... 128

Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve of the clock.

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LORDS: TUESDAY, 9TH MAY 1899.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS ACT, 1869, AND AMENDING ACTS (SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOLS, LONDON)—Her Majesty's Answer to the Address of the 24th of March last, delivered by the Lord Steward (E. Pembroke and Montgomery), and read as follows, viz. :—"I have received your Address, praying that I will withhold my Assent to the Scheme for the management of Saint Paul's Schools in London. I will comply with your advice"	129
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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Owens College, Manchester, Bill [Lords].—Presented (pursuant to leave given yesterday); read the first time, and referred to the Examiners	129
Brooke's Park (Londonderry) Bill [Lords].—Presented (pursuant to leave given yesterday), and read the first time	129
The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill—Pilotage Provisional Order. And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with—Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 9) [Lords]—The same were ordered to lie on the Table	129
Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [Lords].—Committee to meet Tomorrow	129
Transvaal Mortgage Loan and Finance Company Bill [Lords].—Committee to meet on Monday next	130
Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords].—The Queen's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	130
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Metropolitan Water Companies Bill—Report from the Select Committee (with the proceedings of the Committee) made, and to be printed. (No. 82.) Bill reported, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House, and to be printed as amended. [No. 83.]	130
Loughborough Gas Bill [Lords].—Report from the Select Committee, that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill; Ordered, that the Bill be not further proceeded with...	130
Central London Railway Bill—Read the second time, and committed: the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection...	130
Great Western Railway Bill—Read the second time, and committed: the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection...	130
Midland Railway Bill—Read the second time, and committed: the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection	130
Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill—Read the second time, and committed: the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection	130

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North-West London Railway Bill —Read the second time and committed	130
Brigg Urban District Gas Bill —Read the second time, and committed ...	130
Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill —Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons	131
Oldham Corporation Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons	131
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Liverpool Overhead Railway Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons	131
Edinburgh Corporation Bill —Brought from the Commons; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners	131
Gateshead and District Tramways Bill —Brought from the Commons; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners	131
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Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]—Report from the Committee of Selection, that the Lord Ventry be proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee in the place of the Lord Newton; read, and agreed to ...	132
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PETITIONS.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (BOROUGH FUNDS ACT), 1872—Petitions for Amendment of; of Corporation of Lincoln, and of Urban District Council of Acton; Read, and ordered to lie on the Table	132
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HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES—Select Committee to meet on Monday next, at a quarter before Four of the clock. Leave given to the Committee to report from time to time	133
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Parish Councillors (Tenure of Office) Bill —House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported, without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee	133
Lincolnshire Coroners' Bill —COMMITTEE—House in Committee (according to Order).	

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Lord Chancellor (the Earl of Halsbury)</i> ...	133	<i>Lord Heneage</i>	133
		<i>The Lord Chancellor</i>	133

Bill reported, without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act (1889) Extension Bill—SECOND READING.

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Moved—

“That the Bill be now read the second time.”—(*Lord Thring.*)*Lord Harris* 134

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the second time (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

QUESTION.

POST OFFICE AT SALONIKA—Question, Lord Newton ; Answer, The Postmaster-General (The Duke of Norfolk) 134

The House adjourned at a quarter before Six of the clock.

COMMONS: TUESDAY, 9TH MAY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow 136

Bristol Floods Prevention Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed with Amendments 136

East London Water Bill—As amended, to be considered upon Friday . . . 136

Shirebrooke and District Gas Bill—As amended, considered ; an Amendment made ; Bill to be read the third time 136

Wallasey Tramways and Improvement Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 136

West Middlesex Water Bill—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 136

St. Alban's Gas Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed... . 136

Bradford Tramways and Improvement Bill (by Order)—Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bradford Tramways and Improvement Bill to especially consider the clauses of the Bill authorising the inclosure of any part of Baildon Moor, and to report whether, having regard to the provisions of The Commons Act, 1876, and to the increase of the population in the neighbourhood, such inclosure is expedient.—(*Sir Charles Dilke*) 137

London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway Bill—Order [14th February] referring the London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway Bill to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills read, and discharged : Bill withdrawn.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) 137

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Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 5) Bill —Read the second time, and committed... ..	137
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GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY V. GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY —A Petition of Richard Hill Dawe for leave to the proper officer of the House to attend the sitting of the Railway and Canal Commission to produce the deposited plans in relation to the Grimsby Docks Act, 1845, and the Great Northern Railway Amendment Bill (No. 2), 1851. Leave given to the proper officer to attend accordingly—(<i>Dr. Farquharson</i> .)	137
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Question, "That Clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill," put and agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

Amendment proposed—

"To add to Sub-section 1 the words, "Provided that in all cases where power under the Public Health (London) Act, and The Common Lodging House Act, 1851, is transferred, the transfer shall be made subject to the power of the London County Council to make bye-laws and regulations."—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

Amendment ruled out of order.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 1, to leave out 'Sub-section 3.'—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Whitmore (Chelsea)</i> ...	165	<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	...	165
<i>Sir John Blundell Maple</i>		<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	...	166
<i>(Camberwell, Dulwich)</i> ...	165	<i>Mr. Stuart</i> ...	...	167

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"That Sub-sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, be struck out."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Amendment put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"That the following new sub-sections be added. The Local Government Board may, if they think fit, on the application of the London County Council and of the majority of the borough councils, make a Provisional Order for the transfer to all the borough councils of any power exercisable by the County Council or for the transfer to the County Council of any power exercisable by the borough councils."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Stuart</i> ...	...	168	<i>Sir J. Blundell Maple</i> ...	...	169
<i>Colonel Hughes (Woolwich)</i>	168		<i>Captain Norton (Newington, W.)</i>	169	
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	168		<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	169	
<i>The President of the Board</i>			<i>Mr. Stuart</i> ...	...	169
<i>of Trade (Mr. Ritchie,</i>			<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	...	170
<i>Croydon)</i> ...	168		<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i> ...	170	
<i>Mr. Stuart...</i>	...	169			

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'all,' in line 3, to insert the words, 'or any'."—(*Mr. Lowles.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	...	170	<i>Mr. Lowles (Shoreditch, Hagger-</i>		
<i>Mr. Moulton (Cornwall, Lاون-</i>			<i>ston)</i> ...	...	171
<i>ceston)</i> ...	...	170			

Amendment to the Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"To omit Sub-section 7, and substitute the following words: 'The Local Government Board may also, on the joint application of the London County Council and the Common Council of the City of London, make a Provisional Order transferring any power from the County Council to the Common Council, or from the Common Council to the County Council.'"—(*Sir R. B. Finlay.*)

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	171	<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	171
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Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 :—

Question, "That Clause 6 be omitted"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour*)—put and agreed to.

Clause 7 :—

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	...	172	<i>Sir J. Blundell Maple</i>	...	173
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	...	173			

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 9, to leave out 'Sub-section (3).'"—(*Mr. Pickersgill*.)

Question proposed, "That Sub-section 3 stand part of the Clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>...	...	173	<i>Mr. John Burns (Battersea)</i>	...	174
<i>Mr. Stuart</i>...	...	174	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	174
<i>Mr. Courtney (Cornwall, Bodmin)</i>...	...	174			

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"To add, at the end of Clause 1, the words, 'Provided, that before closing or stopping any such street the borough council shall notify the fact to the council in a contiguous borough.'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour*.)

Question, "That those words be there added," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 13, to leave out Sub-section 4."—(*Mr. Pickersgill*.)

Question proposed, "That Sub-section 4 stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	...	175	<i>Mr. Lowles</i>	...	176
<i>Mr. Lough</i>...	...	175	<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	...	176
<i>Mr. Steadman (Tower Hamlets, Stepney)</i>	...	175	<i>Sir J. Blundell Maple</i>	...	176
			<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	...	177

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 238 ; Noes, 131. (Division List, No. 125.)

Amendment proposed—

In page 5, Clause 7, line 22, at the end to insert, 'Nothing in this section shall affect the power of the London County Council to make bye-laws and regulations under the Public Health and other Acts.'"—(*Mr. Stuart*.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	...	181	<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	...	182
<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	...	181	<i>Lord E. Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade)</i>	...	182
<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	...	181			

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 7, page 5, lines 23 and 24, to leave out ‘with the consent of the Local Government Board.’”—(*Mr. R. G. Webster.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause.”

Mr. A. J. Balfour 183

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 5, line 30, to leave out sub-section (6).”—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘A borough council shall have the same powers of promoting’ stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	184	<i>Mr. J. Samuel (Stockton)</i> ...	188
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	185	<i>Colonel Hughes</i> ...	189
<i>Sir A. Rollit (Islington, S.)</i>	186	<i>Mr. John Burns</i> ...	189
<i>Mr. Lough</i> ...	186	<i>Mr. Stuart</i> ...	190
<i>Mr. Richards (Finsbury, E.)</i>	187	<i>Mr. Lowles</i> ...	191
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	187	<i>Mr. Leuty (Leeds, E.)</i> ...	191

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 147; Noes, 68. (Division List, No. 126).

Amendment proposed—

“In page 5, line 31, after the word ‘promoting,’ to insert the words, ‘Bills in Parliament for the purpose of making improvements wholly within their own districts, and not intended to be paid for either wholly or in part out of county funds.’”—(*Mr. J. Stuart.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	195	<i>Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.)</i> ...	196
<i>Mr. John Burns</i> ...	195		

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 67; Noes, 148. (Division List, No. 127.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 5, line 38, at the end of the clause, to add the words, ‘But in this section shall enable a borough council to promote a Bill relating to water, gas, tramways, markets, subways, docks or any other matter affecting the general interests of the metropolis.’”—(*Mr. J. Stuart.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there added.”

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	199	<i>Mr. John Burns</i> ...	200
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Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 70; Noes, 157. (Division List, No. 128.)

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Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8 :—

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out on page 6, line 2, from ‘amount’ to end of clause, and insert ‘as shall be proportionate to the population in the district.’”—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	201	<i>Mr. L. R. Holland</i> (<i>Tower Ham-</i>	
<i>Mr. Haldane</i> (<i>Haddington</i>)	201	<i>lets, Bow, etc.</i>)	202

Amendment put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 8, page 6, line 2, after ‘annual’ to insert, ‘calculated upon the probable cost to the borough council of administering any power or duty so transferred.’”—(*Mr. L. R. Holland.*)

<i>Lord E. Fitzmaurice</i>	204
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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“Line 1, leave out from ‘the’ to ‘council’ in line 2, and insert, ‘average cost during the last three years to the London County Council.’”—(*Mr. R. G. Webster.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. H. S. Samuel</i> (<i>Tower</i>		<i>Mr. J. Samuel</i> ...	206
<i>Hamlets, Linthouse</i>) ...	204	<i>Mr. Bousfield</i> (<i>Hackney, N.</i>)	206
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	205	<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	207
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	205		

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Amendment put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In clause 8, page 6, line 6, after the word ‘Board,’ to insert ‘Provided that in determining such amount the Local Government Board shall, in such cases as it thinks appropriate, have regard to the proportion existing between the population and rateable value of such boroughs.’”—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	208
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 8, page 6, line 9, at beginning, to insert, ‘Provided, that at any interval of not less than three years the London County Council and the borough council may revise and alter the amount of the contribution, or, in default of agreement, the Local Government Board may, on the application of either party, if it think fit, revise and vary the existing arrangement.’”—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

DISCUSSION :

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	209	<i>Mr. John Burns</i> ...	211
<i>Mr. Stuart</i> ...	210	<i>Sir John Lubbock</i> (<i>London Uni-</i>	
<i>Colonel Milward</i> (<i>Warwick-</i>		<i>versity</i>) ...	211
<i>shire, Stratford-on-Avon</i>). ...	210	<i>Colonel Hughes</i> ...	212
<i>Mr. L. R. Holland</i> ...	210	<i>Mr. Stuart</i> ...	212
<i>Lord E. Fitzmaurice</i> ...	211		

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Question, "That Clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Clause 9 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 21, to leave out Sub-section 1."—(*Mr. R. G. Webster.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	213	<i>Mr. John Burns</i> ...	213
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 25, to leave out Sub-section (2)."—(*Mr. James Stuart.*)

Question proposed, "That the words, 'Every committee shall,' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	214	<i>Mr. Pickersgill</i> ...	214
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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 182 ; Noes, 78. (Division List, No. 129.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 26, to leave out the words from the word 'council' to the words 'the Acts' in order to insert the word 'and'—(*Mr. Lough*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	217	<i>Mr. Lough</i> ...	218
<i>Mr. Stuart</i> ...	217	<i>Colonel Hughes</i> ...	218
<i>Mr. John Burns</i> ...	218	<i>Mr. Bond (Nottingham, E.)</i> ...	219
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	218	<i>Mr. J. Samuel</i> ...	219

Question put.

The Committee divided : Ayes, 170 ; Noes, 71. (Division List, No. 130.)

It being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Thursday.

SCOTTISH EDUCATION—Motion made—

"That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying her to withhold her assent to a Minute of the Committee of Council on Education, dated 2nd day of April, 1899, providing for the distribution of the sum available for Secondary and Technical (including Agricultural) Education, under Section 2, Sub-section 4, of the Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1898."—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Captain Sinclair</i> ...	223	<i>The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. G. Murray, Bute-shire)</i> ...	223
<i>Mr. Banbury</i> ...	223		

Motion ruled out of order.

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Seats for Shop Assistants (England and Ireland) Bill—Motion made and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”—*(Sir John Lubbock.)*

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) ...</i>	224	<i>Mr. William Johnston (Belfast, S.)</i>	224
<i>Mr. Asquith (Fife, E.) ...</i>	224	<i>Sir W. Walrond (Devon, Tiverton)</i>	224

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

Executors (Scotland) Act Amendment Bill—Considered in Committee.

Clause 1 :—

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Thursday, 1st June.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

COMMONS : WEDNESDAY, 10TH MAY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

South-Eastern Railway Bill—(Queen’s Consent signified)—Read the third time, and passed 225

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill ; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill ; Northern Assurance Company Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 225

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill—Read a second time, and committed... .. 225

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H)—Mr. JOHNSON-FERGUSON reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills ; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Monday next, at Thirty minutes after Eleven of the clock. Report to lie upon the Table 225

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP J)—Ordered, That George Frederick Giles do attend the Committee on Group J. of Private Bills To-morrow, at Two of the clock 225

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BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872—Petitions for alteration of Law : From Redruth, and Sowerby Bridge ; to lie upon the Table 226

Church Discipline Bill—Petition from Guildford, against ; to lie upon the Table 226

Mines (Eight Hours) Bill—Petitions in favour ; From Robin Hood, Seaton Moor, Hanley, St. Helens, Great Clifton, Broughton Moor, Kirkintilloch, Deerham, Cammerton, Forden, Little Lever, and West Houghton Collieries ; to lie upon the Table 226

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Rating of Machinery Bill —Petition of the United Property Owners and Ratepayers Association of Great Britain, against ; to lie upon the Table ...	226
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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PRISON ACT, 1898—Copy presented,—of Circular, dated 25th April, 1899, addressed to the Chairman of each Bench of Magistrates, calling attention to the Prison Act, 1898, and the rules made under it (by Command) ; to lie upon the Table	227
PRISONS (TREATMENT OF DEBTOR PRISONERS UNDER NEW RULES)—Copy presented,—of Circular, dated 25th April, 1899, addressed to Judges of County Courts by direction of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, calling attention to the changes made by the Rules under Section 6 (3) of the Prison Act, 1898, with regard to the treatment of Debtor Prisoners (by Command) ; to lie upon the Table	227
TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—Copies presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2255 to 2256 (by Command) ; to lie upon the Table	227
TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES)—Copy presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 503 (by Command) ; to lie upon the Table...	227
COMMERCIAL MISSION TO SOUTH AMERICA—Copy presented,—of Reports received from Mr. T. Worthington, the Special Commissioner appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into and report upon the Conditions and Prospects of British Trade in certain South American Countries (Sixth Report) Uruguay (by Command) ; to lie upon the Table	227
PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS—Copy ordered, “of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill.”—(<i>Mr. Ritchie.</i>)	227
Copy presented accordingly ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 187.)	

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EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION—Copy ordered, “of Statistical Tables relating to Emigration and Immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1898, and Report to the Board of Trade thereon.”—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 188.)

COMMITTEES (ASCENSION DAY)—Motion made and Question proposed—

“That Committees do not sit to-morrow, being Ascension Day, until Two of the clock.”—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Mr. J. E. Ellis (*Nottingham, Rushcliffe*) 227

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 184 ; Noes, 68.—(Division List, No. 131.)

Church Discipline Bill—SECOND READING—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”—(*Mr. A. McArthur.*)

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out from the word ‘that,’ to the end of the Question, in order to add the words, ‘this House, while not prepared to accept a measure which creates fresh offences and ignores the authority of the bishops in maintaining the discipline of the Church, is of opinion that, if the efforts now being made by the archbishops and bishops to secure the due obedience of the clergy are not speedily effectual, further legislation will be required to maintain the observance of the existing Laws of Church and Realm.’”—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out form part of the Question.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Channing</i> (<i>Northampton, E.</i>)	254	<i>Lord Hugh Cecil</i>	269
<i>Sir John Kennaway</i> (<i>Devonshire, Honiton</i>)	260	<i>Sir William Harcourt</i> (<i>Monmouthshire, West</i>)	276
<i>Mr. J. W. Mellor</i> (<i>Yorkshire, W. R., Sowerby</i>)	263	<i>Viscount Cranborne</i> (<i>Rochester</i>)	281
<i>Lord Hugh Cecil</i> (<i>Greenwich</i>)	267	<i>Sir William Harcourt</i>	282
<i>Mr. Charles McArthur</i> (<i>Liverpool, Erchange</i>)	269	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury</i> (<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.</i>)	285

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 156 ; Noes, 310. (Division List, No. 132.)

Words added.

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Resolved—

“That this House, while not prepared to accept a measure which creates fresh offences and ignores the authority of the bishops in maintaining the discipline of the Church, is of opinion that, if the efforts now being made by the archbishops and bishops to secure the due obedience of the clergy are not speedily effectual, further legislation will be required to maintain the observance of the existing Laws of Church and Realm.”

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Fine or Imprisonment (Scotland and Ireland) (Re-committed) Bill—
Considered in Committee.

Clause 1 :—

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow. ... 300

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—Third Report from the Select Committee
brought up and read. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.
[No. 189.] ... 300

House adjourned at ten minutes before Six of the clock.

COMMONS : THURSDAY, 11TH MAY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE, ETC.—Ordered, That the Standing Com-
mittee on Trade, etc., have leave to sit this day for the consideration of the
Sale of Food and Drugs Bill during the sitting of the House.—(*Mr. John*
Edward Ellis.) ... 301PRIVATE BILLS.—(STANDING ORDER No. 62 COMPLIED WITH)—MR. SPEAKER laid
upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private
Bills, that, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading
thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. : City and
Brixton Railway Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read the second time ... 301**Dublin Improvement (Bull Alley Area) Bill**—Lords' Amendments con-
sidered, and agreed to... 301**Ayr Burgh Bill**—Read the third time, and passed ... 301**Kensington and Notting Hill Electric Lighting Bill**—Read the third
time, and passed ... 301**Perth Water, Police, and Gas Bill**—Read the third time, and passed, with
Amendments ... 301**South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies**
Bill—Read the third time, and passed ... 301**Great Central Railway Bill**—Read the third time, and passed. [New
Title] ... 301**Gas Light and Coke Company Bill** (by Order)—THIRD READING—Order
for Third Reading read ... 301

Motion made and Question proposed—

“ That the Bill be now read the third time.”

Motion made and Question proposed—

“ That the Debate be now adjourned.”—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.)</i> ...	305	<i>Mr. Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham)</i> ...	309
<i>Sir W. Coddington (Blackburn)</i> ...	306	<i>Mr. Moon (St. Pancras, N.)</i> ...	309
<i>Sir James Rankin (Herefordshire, Leominster)</i> ...	306	<i>Mr. Kimber (Wandsworth)</i> ...	309
<i>Mr. J. Samuel (Stockton)</i> ...	307	<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i> ...	309
<i>Mr. Duncombe (Cumberland, Egremont)</i> ...	307	<i>Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith)</i> ...	310
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i> ...	308	<i>Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.)</i> ...	311
<i>Sir F. Dixon (Hartland (Middlesex, Uxbridge))</i> ...	308	<i>Mr. Aird (Paddington)</i> ...	312
		<i>Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.)</i> ...	312

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 121 ; Noes, 166. (Division List, No. 133.)

Original Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 185 ; Noes, 114. (Division List, No. 134.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (GAS)—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashburton, Wallingford, and Wokingham, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin ... 317

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES)—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Brighton, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin ... 317

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4)—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bristol, Cheltenham, Ealing, Gelligaer, and Rhigos (Rural), Leicester (three), Newmarket, Scarborough, Tonbridge (Rural), Wallasey, and West Ham, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin ... 317

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5)—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashton-in-Makerfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Llandudno, Rotherham, Southport (two), and York, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin ... 317

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6)—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Aberavon, Barry, Brixworth, (Rural), Manchester, Pontypridd, Rickmansworth, and Swadlincote, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell, and Mr. Chaplin ... 318

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashburton, Wallingford, and Wokingham," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 186.] ... 318

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill—"To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Brighton," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 187.] ... 318

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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill —"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bristol, Cheltenham, Ealing, Gelligaer, Rhigos (Rural), Leicester (three), Newmarket, Scarborough, Tunbridge (Rural), Wallasey, and West Ham," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 188)	319
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill —"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashton-in-Makerfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Llandudno, Rotherham, Southport (two), and York," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 189.)	319
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Town Councils (Scotland) Bill .—Petition from Dundee, against; to lie upon the Table	320

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TRADE (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS)—Copy presented—of Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions for 1898 (by Command); to lie upon the Table	321
COMPANIES (APPLICATIONS FOR RETURNS) — Return presented — relative thereto (ordered 22nd March; <i>Mr Faithfull Begg</i>); to lie upon the Table	321
RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT—Copy presented,—of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Uxbridge and Rickmansworth Railway Bill and the objects thereof (pursuant to Standing Order 158A); referred to the Committee on the Bill... ..	321
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EAST INDIA (FINANCE AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS)—Copy presented,—of Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for 1897-8 (by Act); to lie upon the Table	321
EAST INDIA (HOME ACCOUNTS)—Copy presented,—of Home Accounts of the Government of India (by Act); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 192)	321
NAVY (HYDROGRAPHER'S REPORT)—Copy presented,—of Report on Admiralty Surveys for the year 1898 (by Command); to lie upon the Table ...	321
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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND)—(MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT).

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That this House do now adjourn.”—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfar)</i> ...	354	<i>The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. G. Murray, Buteshire)</i> ...	358
<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i> ...	354	<i>Mr. Crombie (Kincairdineshire)</i> ...	359
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i> ...	354	<i>Mr. A. G. Murray</i> ...	360
<i>Captain Sinclair</i> ...	355	<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i> ...	361
		<i>Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.)</i> ...	362
		<i>Mr. A. G. Murray</i> ...	362

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Finance Bill—Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to divide the Bill into two parts, and to report to the House in the first place the portions dealing with Customs, Stamps, and Income-Tax; and, in the second place, that dealing with the National Debt.”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir John Leng (Dundee)</i> ...	363	<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.)</i> ...	364
<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.)</i> ...	364	<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i> ...	365
		<i>Sir H. H. Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.)</i> ...	365

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill considered in Committee.

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 21, to leave out the word ‘fourpence,’ and insert the word ‘twopence.’”—(*Mr. Broadhurst.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘fourpence’ stand part of the clause.”

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	367
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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 246; Noes, 125. (Division List, No. 135.)

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 1, after the word ‘on,’ insert the word ‘foreign.’”—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘foreign’ be there inserted.”

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Galloway (Manchester, S. W.)</i>	375	<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	386
<i>Sir William Harcourt</i>	375	<i>Sir H. H. Fowler</i>	387
<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	380	<i>Mr. James Lowther</i>	389
<i>Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet)</i>	386	<i>Mr. Lambert (Devon, South Molton)</i>	390
<i>Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central)</i>	386	<i>Mr. Galloway</i>	391
		<i>Colonel Pilkington (Lancs, Newton)</i>	391
		<i>Colonel Welby (Taunton)</i>	392

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 37 ; Noes, 192. (Division List, No. 136.)

Amendment proposed—

“ In Clause 2, line 5, to leave out ‘ other than still wine in bottle.’ ”

Question proposed, “ That the words ‘ other than still wine in bottle ’ stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	398	<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>	400
<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester, Forest of Dean)</i>	399	<i>Mr. Courtney</i>	400
<i>Mr. Courtney (Cornwall, Bodmin)</i>	399		

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, line 5, after ‘ wine (other than still, in bottle)’ to insert, ‘ not exceeding 26 degrees of proof spirit, the gallon, £0 1s. 0d.’ ”—(*Mr. Harwood.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	403	<i>Mr. Lambert</i>	408
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	404	<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	408
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman</i>	406		

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Clause 3 :—

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, line 31, at end, to insert, ‘ And on every share warrant or stock certificate to bearer, by means of which any share or stock of any company or body of persons formed or established out of the United Kingdom is, after the first day of August One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, assigned, transferred, or in any manner negotiated in the United Kingdom.’ ”—(*Mr. Henderson.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	410
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Question put, and agreed to.

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Other Amendments made.

Clause 6 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 15, at end, to add, 'Save in the case of companies, reconstructing for the purpose of raising additional capital, in which case the *ad valorem* stamp duty shall be *pro rata* on the new capital to be brought in.'"—
(*Mr. Lloyd Morgan.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	411
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Question put, and negatived.

Clause 8 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 11, to leave out the words 'five pounds,' and insert the words, 'one hundred pounds.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'five pounds' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	...	412	<i>Mr. Moulton (Cornwall, Launceston)</i>	...	...	...	413
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	...	412	<i>Mr. Begg (Glasgow, St. Rollox)</i>	...	...	...	414
<i>Mr. Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	412

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 197 ; Noes, 92. (Division List, No. 137.)

Clause 13 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 26, to leave out the word 'permanent.'"—(*Mr. Harwood.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'permanent' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Lough</i>	...	...	417	<i>Mr. Moulton</i>	...	...	...	418
<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	...	...	417					

Question put.

The Committee divided.—Ayes, 169 ; Noes, 85. (Division List, No. 138.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Nussey (Pontefract)</i>	...	421	<i>Sir William Harcourt</i>	...	...	423
<i>Mr. E. J. C. Morton (Devonport)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	422

Question put, "That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 154 ; Noes, 77. (Division List, No. 139.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) ... 425

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

Supreme Court (Appeals) Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorgan, Mid) ... 427

Dr. Clark (Caithness) ... 427

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

Solicitors Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; an Amendment made ; Bill read the third time, and passed, with an Amendment

BILL INTRODUCED.

Factories and Workshops—Bill to amend the law relating to factories and workshops, Ordered to be brought in by Mr. Tennant, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. John Burns, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Sydney Buxton, Mr. Haldane, Mr. McKenna, and Mr. Lionel Holland.

Factories and Workshops Bill—“To amend the law relating to factories and workshops,” presented accordingly, and read a first time ; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 1st June, and to be printed. [Bill 191.]

House adjourned at half past Twelve of the Clock.

LORDS : FRIDAY, 12TH MAY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Jones's Divorce Bill [Lords]—A witness ordered to attend.—Petition of Charlotte Jane Jones, of St. Helen's, Dalkey, in the County of Dublin, that substituted service of a copy of the Bill be made upon Robert Colvill Jones and Ffolliott Jones, cousins of Robert Colvill Jones, the husband of the said Charlotte Jane Jones ; and that the depositions of A. M. Harry, *Jagesvari alias* Bigili, and Anupa, taken on commission in India in pursuance of Orders of the Queen's Bench Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland, dated the 16th of January, 1889, and the 29th of March, 1899, be received in evidence on the Second Reading of the Bill, or that in the alternative the examination of the said A. M. Harry, *Jagesvari alias* Bigili, and Anupa touching the allegations mentioned in the petition, be taken in India, and that a proper warrant or warrants be issued for that purpose ; considered (according to Order) ; Counsel called in ; a witness examined ; Bill to be read a second time on Tuesday next ; the usual orders made : Ordered, that service of a copy of the Bill, and of the Order for the Second Reading thereof, upon the said Robert Colvill Jones and Ffolliott Jones, be deemed as good service of the said Bill and Order as if the same had been personally served upon the said Robert Colvill Jones, the husband of the said Charlotte Jane Jones : Ordered, that the said depositions of A. M. Harry, *Jagesvari alias* Bigili, and Anupa, be received in evidence on the Second Reading of the Bill.

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THE LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with : Taff Vale Railway ; Lisburn Town Commissioners ; Scunthorpe Urban District Gas and Water. And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with : Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London) [Lords] ; Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (Liverpool) [Lords]. The same was ordered to lie on the Table	429
Salford Corporation Bill [Lords]—The Queen's Consent signified ; and Bill reported from the Select Committee with Amendments	430
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Colonial and Foreign Banks Guarantee Fund Bill [Lords]—Committee to meet on Monday next	430
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Brigg Urban District Gas Bill —Committee to meet on Monday next	430
Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill —Read a second time, and committed ; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection	430
London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway (Pensions) Bill —Read a second time, and committed	431
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Wishaw Water Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons	431
Hampstead Church (Emmanuel, West End) Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons	431
Gainsborough Urban District Council (Gas) Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons... ..	431
Great Yarmouth Water Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons	431

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Leigh-on-Sea Urban District Council Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, Amendments made, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons	431
Dundee Gas, Tramways, and Extension Bill [Lords]; now Dundee Gas, Street Improvements, and Tramways Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons	431
Horsforth Urban District Council Water Bill —Read the third time, with the Amendments, passed, and returned to the Commons	431
Ayr Burgh Bill —Brought from the Commons; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners	431
Gas Light and Coke Company Bill —Brought from the Commons; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners	431
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Kensington and Notting Hill Electric Lighting Bill —Brought from the Commons; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners	431
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South-Eastern Railway Bill —Brought from the Commons; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners	432
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Bristol Floods Prevention Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; The said Amendments considered, and agreed to	432
Perth Water, Police, and Gas Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with an Amendment: The said Amendment considered, and agreed to	432
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Rochdale Canal Bill [Lords]—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie upon the Table: The Orders made on the 2nd of March and Friday last discharged; and Bill committed... ..	432
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Pilotage Provisional Order Bill -Read the second time (according to Order) and committed: the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection	433
Metropolitan Common Scheme (Harrow Weald) Provisional Order Bill —Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 89)	433

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TRADE REPORTS —I. Annual Series: No. 2255, Russia (Odessa). No. 2256, United States (New York). No. 2257, United States (Galveston). No. 2251, China (Shashih). II. Miscellaneous Series: No. 503, Commercial Education in Italy	433
PRISONS (TREATMENT OF DEBTOR PRISONERS UNDER NEW RULES) —Circular dated 25th April, 1899, addressed to Judges of County Courts, by direction of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, calling attention to the changes made by the rules under Section 6 (3) of the Prison Act, 1898, with regard to the treatment of Debtor Prisoners	434
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Anchors and Chain Cables Bill —To be read the second time on Monday next. (<i>The Earl of Dudley</i>)	435
Public Libraries (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill —Read the second time (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next	435
Solicitors Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Committee agreed to, with Amendments ; the said Amendments to be printed. (No. 87)	435
Allotments (London) Bill [Lords]—SECOND READING—Order of the Day for the Second Reading, read.	

Moved—

“That the Bill be now read the second time.”—(*Earl Carrington*.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Onslow</i>	436	<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	438
<i>Lord Harris</i>	437	<i>Lord Harris</i>	439
<i>The Earl of Kimberley</i>	438	<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	439

On Question, resolved in the negative :—Contents, 16 ; Not-Contents, 58.

Board of Education Bill—Amendments reported (according to Order).

Amendment moved—

“In Clause 2, page 2, at end, to insert, ‘and that any proposal by the Board of Education to alter the purposes of an educational endowment of less than fifty pounds a year shall be subject to the provisions with respect to schemes contained in Sections 33 to 36 and 42 and 43 of the Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Section 15 of the Endowed Schools Act, 1873.’”—(*The Archbishop of Canterbury*.)

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<i>The Lord President of the Council (The Duke of Devonshire)</i>	<i>Lord Davey</i>	445
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Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

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Money-Lending Bill [Lords]—Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read the third time on Thursday next	446
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Trawlers Certificates Suspension Bill [Lords]—The Lords following were named of the Select Committee: D. Northumberland, E. Lauderdale, E. Camperdown, E. Dudley, L. Saltoun, L. Balfour, L. Tweedmouth, L. Hawkesbury, L. Heneage. The Committee to meet on Monday next, at half-past Three of the clock, and to appoint their own Chairman... ..	446
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House adjourned at thirty minutes past Five of the clock.

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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [Lords]—(STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.: Education Department Provisional Orders Confirmation (Aberavon, &c.) Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next	450
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PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [Lords]—(NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.: Broughty Ferry Gas and Paving Order Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next	450
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Lincoln and East Coast Railway and Dock Bill —Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	467
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Mr. HALSEY further reported from the Committee ; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure : *Sir Alfred Hickman* ; and had appointed in substitution : *Mr. Bartley*. Reports to lie upon the Table ... 492

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL—Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Trade, &c. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 195.) ... 492

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 195]. 492

Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Thursday, 1st June, and to be printed. (Bill 196) ... 492

Trout Fishing Annual Close Time (Scotland) Bill [Lords]—Read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 197) ... 492

Parish Churches (Scotland) Bill [Lords]—Read for the first time ; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 1st June, and to be printed. (Bill 198.) ... 492

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Sir William Reynell Anson, Baronet, Doctor of Civil Law, for the University of Oxford ... 492

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER)—Ordered, That the proceedings of the Committee of Ways and Means, if the Committee is sitting at Twelve of the clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House, and may be entered upon at any time though opposed.—(*Mr. Balfour.*) ... 492

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Tithe Rent-Charge (Ireland) Bill—Motion made and resolution proposed—

“That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to tithe rent-charge in Ireland.”—(*Mr. G. W. Balfour.*)

Mr. Dillon, (*Mayo, E.*) ... 496

The House divided on the question “that leave be given to bring in the Bill.”—Ayes, 205 ; Noes, 113. (Division List, No. 141.)

Bill ordered to be brought in by *Mr. Gerald Balfour*, *Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*, *Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*, and *Mr. Solicitor-General for Ireland*.

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Tithe Rent-Charge (Ireland) Bill—"To amend the law relating to Tithe Rent-charge in Ireland," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 199.) 509

Finance Bill—Considered in Committee.

New Clause :—

"The Treasury shall open a special account, to be called the Accumulating Sinking Fund, into which all moneys received from the repayments of the terminable annuities created under Section 14 of this Act shall be paid, and also any balance that may from time to time remain from the permanent annual charge for the National Debt, as provided in Section 13 of this Act.

"The Treasury shall also pay into the Accumulating Sinking Fund all or any portion of the moneys received from the Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks not required for current uses of the Savings Banks.

"From the Accumulating Sinking Fund the Treasury may purchase consolidated stock in the open market in such quantities as the Treasury may approve, provided the price so paid is at or below the price of par, and may lend on terminable annuities or for fixed periods to India, to the Crown Colonies, and to local authorities, such sums and at such rates of interest as the Treasury may from time to time approve. Provided that—

"(a) Each such loan has been approved either by the Secretary of State for India, the Colonial Secretary, or the Local Government Board; and

"(b) The whole of each such loan shall be taken by the Accumulating Sinking Fund, the terms of the loan being such that no part of each such loan is or ever can be held by any other person or authority other than the Accumulating Sinking Fund without the written authority of the Treasury."—(*Mr. G. C. T. Bartley*);

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.) ... 510

Question put, and negatived.

New Clause :—

"Upon the decease of any person who, during his lifetime, has expressly provided by insurance or otherwise for payment of the Estate Duty on any property passing at his death, and to that end has appropriated or set apart a sum of money so as to form an inalienable provision for payment of the said duty or any part thereof to the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue, the sum so appropriated or set apart shall not be aggregated with the rest of the estate, and shall not be liable for payment of Estate Duty."—(*Mr. Hubbard*);

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	513	<i>Sir R. T. Reid (Dumfries Burghs)</i>	517
<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.)</i> ...	515	<i>Captain Pretymann (Suffolk, Wood-bridge)</i> ...	517
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i> ...	515	<i>Mr. Moulton (Cornwall, Launceston)</i> ...	518
<i>Mr. Hoare (Norwich)</i> ...	516	<i>Mr. Hubbard (Lambeth, Brixton)</i>	518
<i>Mr. Spicer (Monmouth Boroughs)</i> ...	516		

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

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Amendment proposed—

"To insert the following clause:—'The provisions contained in Section 98 of the Stamp Act of 1891 in reference to the expression "policy of insurance against accident," shall extend to and include policies in insurance or indemnity against liability incurred by employers in consequence of claims made upon them by workmen who have sustained personal injury, when the annual premium on such policy does not exceed £1.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd Morgan.*)

Sir M. Hicks-Beach 518

The clause was read a second time, and added to the Bill.

New clause:—

"The following Sections of the Finance Act, 1894—namely, Section 5, Sub-section 1, paragraphs A and B; and Sub-section 4; Section 16, Sub-section 3; Section 17; and Section 21, Sub-section 4, so far as they enact or relate to Settlement Estate Duty, are hereby repealed"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles*);

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	520	<i>Captain Pretyma</i> ...	522
<i>Sir R. T. Reid</i> ...	520	<i>Sir R. T. Reid</i> ...	522
<i>Sir William Harcourt</i> ...	521	<i>Captain Pretyma</i> ...	523

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

New clause:—

"Section 4 of the Finance Act, 1894, shall be read and have effect as if after the words 'never had an interest or which' the word 'passes' were inserted; as if after the words 'not made by the deceased,' the words 'passes immediately on the death of the deceased to some person other than the wife or husband or a lineal ancestor or a lineal descendant of the deceased' were omitted; and as if all the words after the words 'shall not be aggregated with any other property' to the end of the section were omitted"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles*);

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir M. Hicks-Beach 524

Question put, and negatived.

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Lord Alwyne Compton (Beds,</i>	<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i> ...	525
<i>Biggleswade)</i> ...	<i>Sir William Harcourt</i> ...	525
<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...		525

New Clause:—

"Section 2, Sub-section (3) of The Finance Act, 1894, is hereby amended as follows: The description of property in Sub-section (3) shall be construed as if the words 'more than twelve months before his death,' were omitted therefrom."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles*);

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be now read a second time."

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DISCUSSION.

Sir M. Hicks-Beach ... 527 *Mr. Butcher (York)*... ... 528

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Aye, 1 ; Noes, 164. (Division List, No. 142.)

New Clause :—

“The Commissioners of Customs, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and the Postmaster General shall, after the commencement of this Act, notwithstanding any enactment to the contrary, after deduction of the payments for drawbacks, bounties of the nature of drawbacks, repayments, and discounts, cause the gross revenues of their respective departments to be paid at such times and under such regulations as the Treasury may from time to time prescribe, to accounts to be intituled, The Account of Her Majesty’s Exchequer, at the Bank of England and at the Bank of Ireland respectively, and all other public moneys payable to the Exchequer shall be paid to the same accounts, and accounts of all such payments shall be rendered to the Comptroller and Auditor-General daily, in such form as the Treasury may prescribe; provided always, that this enactment shall not be construed to prevent the collectors and receivers of the said gross revenues and moneys from cashing, as heretofore, under the authority of any Act or regulation, orders issued for Naval, Military, Revenue, Civil, or other Services, repayable to the Revenue Departments out of the Consolidated Fund or out of moneys provided by Parliament. And provided also, that the Treasury may transfer from the said Account of Her Majesty’s Exchequer to the Local Taxation Account such sums, under such conditions and at such times as are prescribed by any existing enactment to be paid to the said Local Taxation Account”—
(*Mr. Gibson Bowles*);

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Clause be now read a second time.”

Sir M. Hicks-Beach 530

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

DISCUSSION :—

Lord Alwyne Compton ... 531 *Viscount Cranborne (Rochester)* ... 532
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower) ... *Captain Pretynman* ... 533
Hamlets, Poplar) ... 532

New Clause :—

“An assessment of the Land Tax made after the passing of this Act for a Land Tax parish in any year during the continuance of the Agricultural Rates Act 1896 shall not assess or charge any tithes, tithe rent-charge, or modus payable to any person having the cure of souls within the parish at more than one-half of the annual value at which such tithes, tithe rent-charge, or modus would be assessed or charged if this Act had not been passed; and any amount of Land Tax not collected by reason of this section shall be remitted from the unredeemed quota of the Land Tax for that year”—(*Viscount Cranborne*);

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Clause be now read a second time.”

DISCUSSION :—

Sir M. Hicks-Beach ... 534 *Mr. Curvell Williams (Notts, Mansfield)* 534

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

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New Clause—

"(1) The duty payable under the Stamp Act, 1891, on bills of exchange drawn and expressed to be payable out of the United Kingdom, when actually paid or endorsed or in any manner negotiated in the United Kingdom, shall, where the amount of the money for which the Bill is drawn exceed £50, be reduced so as to be—(a) where the amount exceeds £50, and does not exceed £100, 6d.; and (b) where the amount exceeds £100, 6d. for every £100, and also for any fractional part of £100 of that amount. (2) The stamp duty chargeable under the Stamp Act, 1891, on bills of exchange expressed to be payable at a period not exceeding three days after date or sight shall be a 1d., in lieu of the duty now chargeable thereon; and accordingly the first heading, Bill of Exchange, in the schedule to that Act, shall be read as if the words 'or within three days after date or sight' were contained therein, after the word 'presentation.'"—(*Sir Samuel Montagu*);

brought up and read the first and second time, and agreed to.

Bill reported.

Bill, as amended, recommitted, in respect of Clauses 2 and 3, and a new Clause, for Monday next.

WAYS AND MEANS—Considered in Committee.

SPIRITS IN BOTTLE—1. That, in addition to the Duties of Customs now payable on Spirits imported into Great Britain or Ireland, there shall be charged, levied, and paid the Duty following (that is to say):—Spirits in bottle (including perfumed spirits, and liqueurs, cordials, mixtures, and other preparations in bottle entered in such a manner as to indicate that the strength is not to be tested) the liquid gallon, One Shilling.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*) 535

Resolution read a second time.

DISCUSSION:—

Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester, *Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee)* 536
Forest of Dean)

Resolution agreed to.

STAMP DUTIES—2 Resolved, That in lieu of the Stamp Duties mentioned in the Resolutions numbered 2 and 4, relating to Stamp Duties, agreed to by the House on the thirteenth day of April, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, there shall be charged the following Stamp Duties, namely—(1) On all foreign and Colonial marketable securities transferable by delivery which are not at present chargeable with Stamp Duty, and which are negotiated in the United Kingdom after the first day of August, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine; and, (2) on any instrument to bearer by means of which any share or stock of any company or body of persons formed or established out of the United Kingdom is, after the first day of August, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, negotiated in the United Kingdom, a Stamp Duty of one shilling for every ten pounds, and also for any fractional part of ten pounds, in the case of a marketable security of the money thereby secured, and in the case of any such instrument to bearer of the nominal value of the share or stock to which the instrument relates.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*) 538

STILL WINES IN BOTTLE—3. Resolved, That, in lieu of the duties of Customs payable, under the Resolution reported from the Committee of Ways and Means on the fourteenth day of April, and then agreed to by the House, on still wine imported into Great Britain or Ireland in bottle, there shall be charged, levied, and paid the same duties in respect of alcoholic strength as if the wine were in cask, and an additional duty, the gallon . . . One shilling.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*) 538

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

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Colonial Loans Fund Bill—SECOND READING—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i> ...	539	<i>Sir Samuel Montagu (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel)</i> ...	540
<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.)</i> ...	539	<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i> ...	541
		<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	542
		<i>Sir John Leng (Dundee)</i> ...	543

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

Supreme Court (Appeals) Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee.

CLAUSE 1 :—

Question again proposed, "That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill reported, with Amendments ; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next.

SUPPLY—REPORT [5TH MAY]—Resolution reported—

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (ESTIMATES), 1899-1900.

CLASS II.

"That a sum, not exceeding £133,098, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Subordinate Departments."

Resolution read a second time.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£133,098' in order to insert '£132,998.'"—(Mr. Weir.)

Question proposed, "That '£133,098' stand part of the resolution."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. J. Havelock Wilson (Middlesbrough)</i> ...	547	<i>Mr. Channing (Northampton, E.)</i>	553
<i>Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk Burghs)</i> ...	552	<i>The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon)</i> ...	554
<i>Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.)</i> ...	552	<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i> ...	558
<i>Mr. Steadman (Tower Hamlets, Stepney)</i> ...	552		

Question put.

The House divided—Ayes, 132 ; Noes, 33. (Division List, No. 143.)

Resolution agreed to.

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WINES IMPORTED—Return presented,—relative thereto [Ordered 12th May ;
Mr. Gold]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 196.)

ADJOURNMENT—Motion made and Question—

“ That this House do now adjourn.”—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

Put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes before Twelve of the clock.

LORDS: MONDAY, 15TH MAY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners, That the following Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills had been complied with: Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) [Lords]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 11) [Lords]. And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Owens College, Manchester [Lords]; Edinburgh Corporation; Gateshead and District Tramways; Goole Urban District Council. The same were ordered to lie on the Table 561

Great Grimsby Street Tramways Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments 561

Glasgow and South-Western Railway Bill [Lords]—The Queen's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 561

Paisley and Barrhead District Railway Bill [Lords]—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 561

Great Northern Railway Bill [Lords]—The Queen's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 561

Colonial and Foreign Banks Guarantee Fund Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments 562

Brighton Marine Palace and Pier Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments 562

Furness Railway Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments 562

Stretford Gas Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments 562

Brigg Urban District Gas Bill—Reported, with Amendments 562

Tenterden Railway Bill—Reported, without Amendment 562

Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [Lords]; **Moss Side Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill** [Lords]; **Stretford Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill** [Lords]; **Withington Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill** [Lords]—Committee to meet To-morrow 562

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Yorke Estate Bill [Lords]—Read the second time	562
Vale of Glamorgan Railway Bill —Read the third time, and passed ...	562
Wick and Pulteney Harbours Bill [Lords]; St. Neots Water Bill [Lords]; Bury Corporation Water Bill [Lords]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Pilotage) Bill [Lords]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Finance) Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons	562
Church Stretton Water Bill [Lords]—Read the third time; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons	562
Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords]; Bexhill and St. Leonards Tram-roads Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons	562
Burley-in-Wharfedale Urban District Water Bill —Read the third time, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons	563
Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton Urban District Council Water Bill; Woodhouse and Conisbrough Railway (Abandonment) Bill —Read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	563
Redditch Gas Bill; West Middlesex Water Bill —Brought from the Commons; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners	563
Wallasey Tramways and Improvement Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to... ..	563
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill —To be read the second time To-morrow.—(<i>The Earl of Dudley.</i>)	563
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill [Lords]—To be read the second time To-morrow	563
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill [Lords]—To be read the second time To-morrow	563
Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills —Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 92 and 93 be suspended; and that the time for depositing Petitions praying to be heard against Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, which would otherwise expire during the adjournment of the House at Whitsuntide, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess	563
Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords]—Read the second time (according to Order)	563
Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (Liverpool) Bill [Lords]—Read the second time (according to Order)... ..	564
Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, and Portishead Tramways Company (Light Railway Extensions) Bill [Lords]—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Raglan be proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee in the place of the Earl of Denbigh. Read, and agreed to	564

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Watermen's and Lightermen's Acts Amendment Bill [Lords]—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Raglan be proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee in the place of the Earl of Denbigh. Read, and agreed to	564
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RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

ARMY PAY, &c. —List of exceptions to Army Regulations as to pay, non-effective pay, and allowances sanctioned during the year ended 31st March, 1899	564
CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1886–87 —Report by Crofters Commission, being for the year ended 31st December, 1898	564
DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE —Statistical Tables for the year 1898... ..	564
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE —Agricultural Returns for Great Britain, showing the acreage and produce of crops, prices of corn, with Agricultural Statistics for the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries, 1898. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table... ..	564
MEDWAY CONSERVANCY —Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended 25th March, 1899. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table	564

PETITIONS.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS —Petition against the sale of, on Sundays; of the inhabitants of Aylesbury and elsewhere, in the County of Buckingham: read, and ordered to lie on the Table	565
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (BOROUGH FUNDS) ACT, 1872 —Petition for Amendment of; of the Northfleet Urban District Council; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	565
Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]—Petition in favour of; of the Members of the Home and Foreign Produce Exchange, Limited; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	565

BILL INTRODUCED.

MARRIAGES VALIDITY BILL [Lords]—A Bill to validate certain marriages was presented by the Lord Bishop of London; read the first time; and to be printed. (No. 90.)	565
Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]—To be read the second time on Tuesday the 6th of June next	565
Solicitors Bill [Lords]—Commons Amendments, to be considered To-morrow	565

QUESTIONS.

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMY AND MILITIA —Questions, The Earl of Wemyss, and the Duke of Northumberland; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (The Marquess of Lansdowne)	565
PROPOSED PACIFIC CABLE —Questions, The Earl of Aberdeen, and Lord Tweedmouth; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (The Earl of Selborne)	573

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Infectious Disease (Notification) Act (1889) Extension Bill—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported, without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee ... 579

Public Libraries (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported, without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee ... 579

Licensing (Disqualification of Justices Removal) Bill [Lords]—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported, without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee ... 579

Board of Education Bill [Lords]—Read the third time (according to Order): Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons ... 579

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes
before Six of the clock.

COMMONS: MONDAY, 15TH MAY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz., Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time ... 579

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz., South Hants Water Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time ... 580

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto, viz., Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow ... 580

Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill (Queen's Consent signified)—Read the third time, and passed ... 580

Northern Assurance Company Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 580

Aire and Calder Navigation Bill—As amended, considered; to be read the third time ... 580

Coalville Urban District Gas Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered; to be read the third time... 580

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Great Western and Great Central Railway Companies Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	580
London and North-Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	580
London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway (Various Powers) Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	581
London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	581
Manchester Corporation (General Powers) Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	581
West Highland Railway Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	581
Bury Corporation Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed ...	581
London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (No. 2) Bill —Read a second time, and committed	581
Skipton Urban District Gas Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed	581
Southampton Corporation Water Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed	581
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill —Read the third time, and passed	581
St. Andrews Burgh Provisional Order Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment	581
Broughty Ferry Gas and Paving Order Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed	581
Education Department Provisional Orders Confirmation (Aberavon, &c.) Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed	581
ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 17) BILL —Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Carshalton, Gateshead, Merthyr Tydfil, and Newton Abbot, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hanbury	581
ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 18) —Bill to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Royal Leamington Spa, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hanbury	582
PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) —Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Fleetwood, Innellan, Montrose, and Southwold, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hanbury ...	582
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill —“To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Carshalton, Gateshead, Merthyr Tydfil, and Newton Abbot,” presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 200.)	582

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Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 18) Bill—"To confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Royal Leamington Spa," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 201.)... 582

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under The General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Fleetwood, Inellan, Montrose, and Southwold," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 202.)... 582

Dublin Corporation Bill—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 582

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP J)—Ordered, That John William Leyshon do attend the Committee on Group J of Private Bills To-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock ... 583

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to Horsforth Urban District Council (Water) Bill, with Amendments. Amendment to Perth Water, Police, and Gas Bill [Lords]. Amendments to Bristol Floods Prevention Bill [Lords], without Amendment ... 583

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, An Act to confer further borrowing powers on the Commissioners of the Burgh of Wishaw for the purposes of their water undertaking." [Wishaw Water Bill [Lords] ... 583

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Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the transfer of the undertaking of the Gainsborough Gas Company to the Gainsborough Urban District Council, and to confer further powers on the said Council with respect to the supply of gas; and for other purposes." [Gainsborough Urban District Council (Gas) Bill [Lords] ... 583

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Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	607

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

ORDERS OF THE DAY—Ordered, That the Report of Ways and Means have precedence this day of the Finance Bill.—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

London Government Bill—Considered in Committee.

CLAUSE 9:—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 9, line 30, at end, to add, ‘A borough council appointing under this Act any Committee, may from time to time make, vary, and revoke regulations respecting the quorum and proceedings of such Committee; and, subject to such regulations, the proceedings and quorum shall be such as the Committee may from time to time direct, and the chairman at any meeting of the Committee shall have a second or casting vote.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there added.”

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Mr. Stuart (Shoreditch, Hoxton)</i>	608	<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	609
<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	608		

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 6, line 30, at end, to add, ‘except that a Committee appointed for the purposes of the Libraries Acts, 1892 and 1893, may spend in any year a sum equal to the amount which would be produced in that year by the maximum rate which, at the passing of this Act, could be levied in the district for which the Committee acts.’”—(*Mr. Whitmore.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION:—

<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	609	<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester, Forest of Dean)</i>	610
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed,—

“In page 6, line 30, to add the words, ‘Any two or more Borough Councils, or any Borough Council or Councils, and any Board or Boards of Guardians in the metropolis, may from time to time concur in appointing out of their respective bodies a joint committee for any purpose in respect of which they are jointly interested, and may confer on any such committee any power which the appointing Council or Board might exercise for the purpose for which the committee is appointed.’”—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed—“That those words be there added.”

STAMP DUTIES.

2. "That, in lieu of the Stamp Duties mentioned in the Resolutions numbered 2 and 4, relating to Stamp Duties, agreed to by the House on the fourteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, there shall be charged the following Stamp Duties, namely—

- (1) on all foreign and colonial marketable securities transferable by delivery which are not at present chargeable with Stamp Duty, and which are negotiated in the United Kingdom after the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine ; and
- (2) on any instrument to bearer by means of which any share or stock of any company or body of persons formed or established out of the United Kingdom is, after the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, negotiated in the United Kingdom, a stamp duty of one shilling for every ten pounds, and also for any fractional part of ten pounds, in the case of a marketable security of the money thereby secured, and in the case of any such instrument to bearer of the nominal value of the share or stock to which the instrument relates."

STILL WINES IN BOTTLE.

3. "That, in lieu of the Duties of Customs payable, under the Resolution reported from the Committee of Ways and Means on the fourteenth day of April, and then agreed to by the House, on still wine imported into Great Britain or Ireland in bottle, there shall be charged, levied, and paid the same Duties in respect of alcoholic strength as if the wine were in cask, and an additional Duty, the gallon One Shilling."

Resolutions agreed to.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Finance Bill that they have power to make provision therein pursuant to the said Resolutions.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

FINANCE (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 2, amended, and agreed to.

Clause 3, amended, and agreed to.

New clause (Additional Duties on Spirits)—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*) brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Courtney (Cornwall,</i>	<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer</i>	
<i>Bodmin) 687</i>	<i>(Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.)</i>	<i>687</i>

Question put, and agreed to

Clause added.

Bill reported, as amended, to be considered to-morrow	688
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COLONIAL LOANS FUND BILL.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 :—

Committee report Progress ; to sit again this day	688
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SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) BILL—[Lords].

As amended, considered ; read the third time, and passed...	688
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Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve of the clock.

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LORDS: TUESDAY 16TH MAY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Jones's Divorce Bill—Order of the Day for the Second Reading, read :
 Counsel called in : Witnesses examined : Moved that the Bill be now read
 the second time ; the same was agreed to : Bill read the second time
 accordingly ; and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on
 Thursday next... 689

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the
 Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners
 that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have
 been complied with: Great Central Railway ; South-Eastern and London,
 and Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies ; South-Eastern Railway.—
 And also the Certificate that no further Standing Orders are applicable to
 the following Bill : Gas Light and Coke Company ; The same were ordered
 to lie on the Table ... 689

Sunderland Corporation Bill [Lords]—Reported from the Select Com-
 mittee, with Amendments ... 689

Cobham Gas Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments ... 689

Grosvenor Chapel (London) Bill [Lords]—Committee to meet on Thursday
 next ... 689

Owens College, Manchester Bill [Lords]—To be read the second time on
 the first sitting day after the Recess at Whitsuntide ... 689

Brooke's Park (Londonderry) Bill (Lords)—Read the second time ... 689

Taff Vale Railway Bill—Read the second time, and committed ... 689

Lisburn Town Commissioners Bill—Read the second time, and com-
 mitted ... 690

Scunthorpe Urban District Gas and Water Bill—Read the second
 time, and committed ; The Committee to be proposed by the Committee
 of Selection ... 690

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill (Lords)—Read the third time,
 and passed, and sent to the Commons ... 690

Salford Corporation Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, and
 sent to the Commons ... 690

Wakefield Corporation Bill [Lords]—Read the third time and passed,
 and sent to the Commons ... 690

**Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill ; Shirebrook
 and District Gas Bill**—Brought from the Commons ; read the first
 time, and referred to the Examiners... 690

St. Andrew's Burgh Provisional Order Confirmation Bill [Lords].—
 Returned from the Commons, agreed to ... 690

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Northern Assurance Company Bill [Lords].—Returned from the Commons ; agreed to, with Amendments ; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 690

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill [Lords] ; **Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill** [Lords].—Read the second time (according to order). ... 690

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill—Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 93). ... 690

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords] ; **Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill** [Lords] ; **Water Orders Confirmation Bill** [Lords].—To be read a second time, on Thursday next ... 691

Watermen's and Lightermen's Acts Amendment Bill [Lords].—The order made on the fifth instant appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bill, discharged ... 691

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

ARMY (PRELIMINARY RETURN).—Preliminary Return of the British Army for 1898 ; with abstracts, &c. ... 691

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Report of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland ; with appendix, 1898-99 ... 691

POLICE (SCOTLAND).—Forty-first Annual Report of Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, for the year ended 31st December, 1898 ... 691

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 2,259. France (Dunkirk). No. 2,260. Persia (Ispahan and District). No. 2,261. Italy (Sardinia). No. 2,262. Turkey (Aleppo) ... 691

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Rule dated 29th of April, 1899 ... 691

POST OFFICE (PARCEL POST WITH PORTUGAL, INCLUDING MADEIRA AND THE AZORES).—Agreement for the express delivery of parcels exchanged between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Portugal, including Madeira and the Azores ... 691

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

PRISONS (IRELAND).—Order in Council, approving of a rule made by the General Prisons Board, dated 5th May, 1899 ; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table ... 691

PETITIONS.

VACCINATION ACTS.—Petition for repeal of ; of Guardians of the Poor of St. Mary's, Islington ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ... 692

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (BOROUGH FUNDS) ACT, 1872.—Petition for amendment of ; of Urban District Council of Wimbledon ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ... 692

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HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES—First Report from the Select Committee made ; to be printed ; and to be considered on Thursday next. (No. 91.) ... 692

Supreme Court Appeals Bill—Returned from the Commons and agreed to, with Amendments ; Commons Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to, with an Amendment ; and Bill returned to the Commons ... 692

Lincolnshire Coroners Bill [Lords]—Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments. The Report thereof to be received on Thursday next ; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 94.) ... 692

Parish Councillors (Tenure of Office) Bill—Reported from the Standing Committee with an Amendment. The Report thereof to be received on Thursday next ; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 95.) ... 692

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act (1889) Extension Bill—Reported from the Standing Committee without amendment, and to be read the third time on Thursday next... 692

Public Libraries (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill—Reported from the Standing Committee without amendment, and to be read the third time on Thursday next... 692

Licensing (Disqualification of Justices Removal) Bill—Reported from the Standing Committee without amendment, and to be read the third time on Thursday next ... 692

Isolation Hospitals Acts (Amendment) Bill [Lords]—SECOND READING—Order for Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

The Earl of Lichfield ... 693 *Lord Harris* ... 695

On question, agreed to.

Bill read a second time (according to Order) and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Metropolitan Water Companies Bill—COMMITTEE—House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1 :—

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out 'and maintaining.'"—(*Viscount Hampden*.)

Lord James of Hereford ... 697

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In line 2, after 'borne' to insert 'and the money required for the construction of such works shall be raised by the issue of debenture stock under the powers of this Act by the company actually constructing the same, but the interest on such stock shall, subject as herein-after provided, be borne.'"—(*Viscount Hampden*.)

Agreed to.

Clause as amended, agreed to.

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Clause 2 :—

Amendment moved—

“ On page 3, after line 7, insert, ‘ Provided that a company shall not be required to carry to a sinking fund a percentage on the amount of money for the time being raised by the issue of debenture stock created under the powers of this Act.’—(*Lord James of Hereford*.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Ribblesdale</i> ...	701	<i>Lord Russell of Killowen</i> ...	711
<i>Viscount Knutsford</i> ...	702	<i>The Prime Minister and Secretary</i>	
<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i> ...	703	<i>of State for Foreign Affairs</i>	
<i>Viscount Hampden</i> ...	704	<i>(The Marquess of Salisbury)</i> ...	712
<i>Lord Davey</i>	707	<i>Earl of Kimberley</i>	713
<i>Lord James of Hereford</i> ...	709		

On Question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 51 ; Not-contents, 20.

Amendment moved, at the end of Clause 2, to add—

“ And provided that the total amount of such stock shall not exceed £500,000.”
—(*Lord Tweedmouth*.)

Lord James of Hereford 715

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Other Amendments agreed to.

Moved, to insert the following new clause—

“ Nothing in this Act shall authorise the construction by any metropolitan water company of any works for the purpose of utilising any supplies of water drawn from the wells outside the water limits of the metropolitan water companies not now utilised under the powers possessed by such companies.”—(*Earl Couper*.)

DISCUSSION :—

Earl Stanhope 716 *Lord James of Hereford* ... 716

On Question, agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived : The Report of the Amendments to be received on Thursday next, and Standing Order No. 39 to be considered in order to its being dispensed with ; and Bill to be printed as amended.
(No. 92.) 717

Solicitors Bill [Lords]—Commons' Amendments considered (according to order), and agreed to 717

QUESTION.

SIERRA LEONE—Question, Lord Stanley of Alderley ; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Selborne*) 717

House adjourned at Forty-five minutes past Six of the clock.

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COMMONS: TUESDAY, 16TH MAY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS—(STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz.: Ionian Bank Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time	721
PRIVATE BILLS [Lords]—(STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.: Barton-on-Sea Water Bill [Lords]; Glasgow Corporation (Gas and Water) Bill [Lords]; Glasgow Corporation (Tramways, &c.) Bill [Lords]; Liverpool Overhead Railway Bill [Lords]; Mid-Kent Gas Bill [Lords]; Oldham Corporation Bill [Lords]; Stockton and Middlesbrough Water Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time	721
PRIVATE BILLS [Lords]—(NO STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO APPLICABLE)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders not previously inquired into are applicable, viz.: London Hospital Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time	721
Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill (Queen's Consent Signified) —Read the third time, and passed. [New Title]	721
Belfast Water Bill (Queen's Consent Signified) —Read the third time, and passed	721
Birmingham Corporation Bill; Cork Corporation (Finance) Bill; Dublin Corporation (Markets) Bill; East London Water Bill — Read the third time, and passed	722
Milton Creek Conservancy Bill (Queen's Consent Signified) —Read the third time, and passed	722
North Pembrokeshire and Fishguard Railway Bill —Read the third time, and passed	722
Surrey Commercial Docks Bill [Lords] Amendment —Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment	722
Leith Harbour and Docks Bill; South Staffordshire Stipendiary Justice Bill —As Amended, considered; to be read the third time	722
City and Brixton Railway Bill —Read a second time, and committed	722
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill —Read a second time, and committed	722

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Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland) Bill —Petitions in favour, from Melrose, Cowdenbeath, and Morebattle; to lie upon the Table	726
London Government Bill —Petition from St. Leonard, Shoreditch, for alteration; to lie upon the Table	726
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill —Petitions in favour, from Kelty, Lumphinnans, Begg, Oakley, Blairhall, East Wemyss, Lassodie, Irvyn Gwyn, Bradford, Coaltown of Wemyss, Lochgelly, Raith, Townhill, Buckhaven, Cowdenbeath, and Lochore; to lie upon the Table	726
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COAL EXPORTS, &c. —Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st March 1899; <i>Mr. D. A. Thomas</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed (No. 198)	727
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POST OFFICE (PARCEL POST WITH PORTUGAL, INCLUDING MADEIRA AND THE AZORES)—Copy presented, of Agreement for the Express Delivery of Parcels exchanged between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Portugal, including Madeira and the Azores [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 728

CROWN'S NOMINEE ACCOUNT—Abstract Account presented, of Receipts and Payments of the Treasury Solicitor, in the year ended 31st December, 1898, in the Administration of Estates on behalf of the Crown, and Alphabetical List of Intestates' Estates in respect of which Letters of Administration were granted to the Treasury Solicitor as Crown's Nominee, and of other cases (Partial Intestacies, &c.), in which Accounts were opened in the Books of the Treasury Solicitor in the same year in respect of moneys received by him as Crown's Nominee [by Act]; to lie upon the Table. (No. 192) ... 728

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS (LONDON)—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August, 1894; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. (No. 200.) ... 728

POST OFFICE (TELEPHONE EXCHANGES)—Return ordered, “giving the names of all Telephone Exchanges which the Post Office has at any time opened in the United Kingdom, with the date of opening; the number of subscribers at opening; the date on which each Exchange had the largest number of subscribers, and their number; the date on which each Exchange now without subscribers became so; the number of subscribers on the 31st day of December, 1896, 1897, and 1898, on Exchanges then open; the number of subscribers who have given notice to leave any Exchange; and the tariff, in the following form:—

Name of Exchanges.	Date of opening.	Number of subscribers at opening of Exchange.	Date on which each Exchange had the largest number of subscribers, and their number.	Dates on which Exchanges now without subscribers became so.	Number of subscribers on Exchanges open 31st day of December, 1896.	Number of subscribers on Exchanges open 31st day of December, 1897.	Number of subscribers on Exchanges open 31st day of December, 1898.	Number of subscribers who have given notice to leave any Exchange.	Tariff.

(in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 97, of Session 1898).—(*Mr. Provind.*) ... 728

GAS UNDERTAKINGS.—Return ordered, “relating to all authorised Gas Undertakings in the United Kingdom other than those of Local Authorities, for the year ended 31st day of December, 1898 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 364, of Session 1898).”—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)... 729

STAMP DUTIES.

2. "That, in lieu of the Stamp Duties mentioned in the Resolutions numbered 2 and 4, relating to Stamp Duties, agreed to by the House on the fourteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, there shall be charged the following Stamp Duties, namely—

- (1) on all foreign and colonial marketable securities transferable by delivery which are not at present chargeable with Stamp Duty, and which are negotiated in the United Kingdom after the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine ; and
- (2) on any instrument to bearer by means of which any share or stock of any company or body of persons formed or established out of the United Kingdom is, after the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, negotiated in the United Kingdom, a stamp duty of one shilling for every ten pounds, and also for any fractional part of ten pounds, in the case of a marketable security of the money thereby secured, and in the case of any such instrument to bearer of the nominal value of the share or stock to which the instrument relates."

STILL WINES IN BOTTLE.

3. "That, in lieu of the Duties of Customs payable, under the Resolution reported from the Committee of Ways and Means on the fourteenth day of April, and then agreed to by the House, on still wine imported into Great Britain or Ireland in bottle, there shall be charged, levied, and paid the same Duties in respect of alcoholic strength as if the wine were in cask, and an additional Duty, the gallon One Shilling."

Resolutions agreed to.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Finance Bill that they have power to make provision therein pursuant to the said Resolutions.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

FINANCE (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 2, amended, and agreed to.

Clause 3, amended, and agreed to.

New clause (Additional Duties on Spirits)—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*) brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Courtney</i> (<i>Cornwall,</i>	<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer</i>	
<i>Bodmin</i>) 687	(<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.</i>)	687

Question put, and agreed to

Clause added.

Bill reported, as amended, to be considered to-morrow	688
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COLONIAL LOANS FUND BILL.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 :—

Committee report Progress ; to sit again this day	688
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SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) BILL—[Lords].

As amended, considered ; read the third time, and passed...	688
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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

London Government Bill—Considered in Committee.

Clause 14—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 7, at end, to insert, 'before any Order in Council is made under this Act, the draft thereof shall be laid before each House of Parliament for not less than 30 days on which that House is sitting, and if either of those Houses before the expiration of 30 those days presents an address to Her Majesty against the draft, or any part thereof, no further proceedings shall be taken thereon, without prejudice to the making of any new draft Order.'—*(Sir Charles Dilke.)*

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 755
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) ... 755

Mr. Stuart (Shoreditch, Hoxton) 756
Captain Norton (Newington, W.) 757

Question put, and agreed to.

Words added.

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 10, at end to insert, '(3) The Commissioners, before preparing any Order or scheme under Section one of this Act, or any other Order or scheme for carrying this Act into effect, when the subject matter is one to which a local inquiry is applicable, shall cause to be made a local inquiry, of which due public notice shall be given, and at which any vestry, district board, or other local authority affected thereby shall be permitted to tender evidence and make representations which the Commissioner shall consider.'—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	757	<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	758
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 11, to leave out Sub-section (3)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That Sub-section (3) stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	759	<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	...	759
<i>Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.)</i>	...	759	<i>Mr. Pickersgill</i>	...	760
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	759		<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	...	760

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 192 ; Noes, 100.—(Division List, No. 151.)

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 15 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 14, to leave out 'may,' and insert 'shall,' as the circumstances in each case may require."—(*Mr. Stephens.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'may,' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	...	763	<i>Colonel Hughes (Woolwich)</i>	...	763
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Question put, and agreed to.

Questions, Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) and Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand). Answers, The Solicitor-General, Sir R. B. Finlay (Inverness Burghs), and The Attorney-General (Sir Richard Webster (Isle of Wight) ... 763

Other Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 30, at end, to insert '(e) for the apportionment and transfer of property and liabilities as may be done under Section 68 of the Local Government Act, 1894.'—(*Mr. Stephens.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	764
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 31, after 'Act,' to insert 'other than The London Building Act, 1894.'"—(*Mr. Courtney.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 36, at end to insert '(2) A scheme or order may be made for amending any scheme or order previously made in pursuance of this Act, and may be made by the same authority and after the same procedure as the original scheme or order.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	...	765	<i>Mr. Lough</i>	766
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Amendment put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 36, at end, to add, '(g) and for enabling borough councils to expend money on technical instruction, provided that nothing in this Act shall alter the powers of the London County Council in respect of the Technical Education Act and of the administration of the grant for technical education.'"
—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	766	<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	...	...	766
<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	...	766				

Amendment ruled "out of order."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 4, after 'deemed,' to insert, 'otherwise than for the purpose of lodging a petition.'"—(*Mr. J. Stuart.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"At end of clause to add: 'The Mayor, Commonalty, and citizens, and the Court of Aldermen, and the Coroner, and other officers of the City of London and their deputies, shall also be deemed a local authority within the meaning of the said provisions so far as relates to any powers exercisable by them respectively within the ancient Borough of Southwark.'"—(*Mr. Causton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	767
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Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"At end of clause, to add: 'The London County Council shall be entitled to make representations to the Commissioners and to the Committee of the Privy Council in respect of any of the matters referred to them by this Act, and shall be entitled to be heard in support of such representations.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	767	<i>Sir J. Blundell Maple</i>	...	...	769
<i>Mr. Sydney Burton</i>	...	768	<i>Mr. Lough</i>	...	...	769
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	768	<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	...	...	769
<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	...	768	<i>Mr. Haldane (Haddington)</i>	...	...	770
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	769	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	770

Question put, and negatived.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

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Clause 16 :—

Clause agreed to.

Clause 17 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 10, lines 11 and 12, to omit the words ‘or of constituting a satisfactory area for a borough.’”—(*Mr. Herbert Robertson.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

Mr. A. J. Balfour 771

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“That Sub-section (1) be omitted.”—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, “That Sub-section (1) stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i> ...	772	<i>Mr. Stephens (Middlesex, Hornsey)</i>	772
<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester,</i>		<i>Mr. Bousfield (Hackney, N.)</i> ...	772
<i>Forest of Dean)</i> ...	772		

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 10, line 22, after ‘observed,’ to insert, ‘Provided that where any such detached part is geographically situate within any borough mentioned in the First Schedule to this Act, it shall remain part of that borough.’”—(*Mr. Burdett-Coutts.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i> ...	773	<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	773
<i>Mr. Whitmore (Chelsea)</i> ...	773		

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 10, line 23, to leave out sub-section (2).”—(*Mr. Bigwood.*)

Question proposed, “That Sub-section (2) stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir F. Dixon-Hartland (Mid-</i>		<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	776
<i>dlesex, Uxbridge)</i> ...	774	<i>Mr. Stephens</i>	776
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	775	<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	777
<i>Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice</i>		<i>Mr. Bigwood (Middlesex, Brent-</i>	
<i>(Wiltshire, Cricklade)</i> ...	775	<i>ford)</i>	777

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 10, line 23, after ‘surrounds,’ to insert ‘wholly or for the greater part’; and, in the same line, to leave out ‘detached.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	778	<i>Mr. Lough</i>	778
<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	778	<i>Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice</i>	778

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 28, to leave out from 'London' to 'the whole,' in line 30."—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Bousfield</i>	779	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	779
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Question put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 18 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 10, at end, to add, '(3) Nothing in this Act shall prevent the council of any borough from continuing to make any contribution for the purpose of technical education hitherto made by any local authority. (4) Nor from exercising its existing powers to carry on a market.'"—(*Colonel Hughes.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	780	<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	780
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Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 19 agreed to.

Clause 20 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 37, after 'hall,' to insert 'or mortuary.'"—(*Mr. Thornton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	780	<i>Mr. Thornton</i>	780
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 5, to leave out 'town clerk,' and insert 'borough council.'"—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'town clerk' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	781	<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	781
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Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 12, line 5, at end, to add, ‘ Where before the passing of this Act the duty of appointing trustees of any parochial charity, or of any board of trustees constituted by an order of the Charity Commissioners, has devolved upon the vestry of any parish, such duty shall be transferred to the council of the borough in which the parish is situate : Provided, that in the future election or appointment of such trustees only those members of the council shall be entitled to vote who represent the parish or any portion thereof to which the charity is applicable, and where a parish has been divided by the operation of any scheme made under this Act, such scheme shall make provision for the proportion in which the trustees shall be appointed in like manner by each of the borough councils exercising jurisdiction over portions of the parish.’ ”—
(*Mr. Causton.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour 782

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 12, line 5, at end, to add ‘ no ecclesiastical charity (as defined by the Local Government Act, 1894) shall be affected by anything in this Act.’ ”—
(*Lord Hugh Cecil.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

Sir Richard Webster 782

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 21 :—

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 12, line 6, after ‘ shall,’ to insert, ‘ direct that the area of Westminster, as constituted by this Act, shall be called the City of Westminster, &c.’ ”—
(*Mr. Burdett-Coutts.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

Mr. A. J. Balfour... .. 783

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 12, line 12, after ‘ duty,’ to insert, ‘ and give such directions as to the first meeting of the borough councils.’ ”—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

Question, “ That those words be there inserted,” put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 12, line 16, to insert, ‘ The Order in Council under this Act shall provide for the revised list of voters in the administrative County of London, outside the City, being, in the year 1900, printed and signed before October 20, and coming into operation as the register for the purposes of the borough election on November 1.’ ”—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

Sir Charles Dilke 784 *Mr. Bousfield* 785

Question put, and agreed to.

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Amendment proposed—

"To insert, 'On the day on which the first borough councillors elected under this Act come into office, the persons who are then members of elected vestries or district boards shall cease to hold office, and until that day the persons who are, at the passing of this Act, members of elected vestries and district boards shall continue in office as if the term of office for which they were elected expired on that day, except for the purpose that no further election shall take place.'"—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 22 amended, and agreed to.

Clause 23 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 41, to leave out the words from the word 'council,' to the second word 'the,' in page 13, line 1."—(*Mr. Cohen.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>...	...	786	<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>...	...	786
<i>Mr. Stuart</i>...	...	786	<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>...	...	786
<i>Captain Norton</i>...	...	786			

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 172 ; Noes, 94. (Division List, No. 152.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 7, after the word 'officer,' to insert the words 'whose office they may deem unnecessary ; but any officer required to perform duties such as are not the same or analogous, or which are in addition to those which he is at present required to perform, may relinquish his office, and any officer so relinquishing his office, or whose office is abolished, shall be entitled to compensation under this Act.'"—(*Colonel Hughes.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>...	...	789	<i>Colonel Hughes</i>...	...	789
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>...	...	789	<i>Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.)</i>...	...	789

Amendment amended—

"By leaving out, in line 3, the words 'the same or,' and by leaving out the word 'in,' and inserting the words 'an unreasonable,' instead thereof."

Question proposed—

"That the words 'whose office they may deem unnecessary ; but any officer required to perform duties such as are not analogous, or which are an unreasonable addition to those which he is at present required to perform, may relinquish his office, and any officer so relinquishing his office, or whose office is abolished, shall be entitled to compensation under this Act' be there inserted."

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Pickersgill</i>	790	<i>Sir T. G. Fardell (Paullington, S.)</i>	793
<i>Mr. John Burns (Buttersea)</i>	790	<i>Mr. Lowles (Shoreditch, Hagger-</i>	
<i>Mr. Sydney Buzton</i>	791	<i>ston)</i>	793
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	791	<i>Lord E. Fitzmaurice</i>	794
<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	792	<i>The Secretary to the Local Govern-</i>	
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	793	<i>ment Board (Mr. T. W. Russell,</i>	
<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	793	<i>Tyrone, S.)</i>	794
<i>The President of the Board of</i>		<i>Mr. Pickersgill</i>	794
<i>Trade (Mr. Ritchie,</i>		<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	795
<i>Croydon)</i>	793	<i>Captain Norton</i>	796

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 139 ; Noes, 61. (Division List, No. 153.)

Amendment proposed—

“ After the words last inserted, to add the words, ‘ The borough councils may distribute the business to be performed by the existing officers in such manner as the councils may think just, and every existing officer shall perform such duties in relation to that business as may be directed by the council.’ ”—
(*Sir T. G. Fardell.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	797	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	798
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 13, line 7, at end, to insert, ‘ If any officer is transferred by or under this Act to the service of a borough council, and within five years from the date of transfer is removed from his office for any cause other than misconduct or incapacity, his office shall be deemed to have been abolished within the meaning of this Act and of the enactments applied by this section.’ ”—
(*Colonel Hughes.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	798	<i>Lord E. Fitzmaurice</i>	800
<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	799	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	801
<i>Mr. W. F. D. Smith</i>	799	<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	801
<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	799	<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	802
<i>Mr. Burdett-Coutts (West-</i>		<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	802
<i>minster)</i>	800		

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 13, line 7, at end, to insert, ‘ all service by an officer under any authority or authorities to whom this Act applies, shall be aggregated and reckoned for the purposes of this Act, whether the service has been continuous or not, and whether his whole time has been devoted to the service or not.’ ”—
(*Colonel Hughes.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	803	<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	804
<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	803	<i>Mr. Oldroyd (Dewsbury)</i>	804
<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	803		

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Amendment proposed—

In page 13, line 11, to leave out all after the second ‘council,’ and insert, ‘If any person to whom a compensation annuity is granted under this Act accepts any public employment, he shall, during the continuance of that employment, receive only so much (if any) of that annuity as, with the remuneration of that employment, will amount to a sum not exceeding the salary or emoluments in respect of the loss whereof the annuity was awarded, and if the remuneration of that employment is equal to or greater than such salary or emoluments, the annuity shall be suspended so long as he receives that remuneration.’—(Sir T. G. Fardell.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	...	805	<i>Mr. Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham)</i>	...	...	...	...	806
<i>Sir T. G. Fardell (Paddington, S.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	805

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 13, line 18, to leave out the first ‘may,’ and insert, ‘shall.’”—(Colonel Hughes.)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘may’ stand part of the clause.”

<i>Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice</i>	806
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Question put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 13, line 28, to leave out from ‘clerk,’ to ‘may,’ in line 29, and insert ‘who.’”—(Sir T. G. Fardell.)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Richard Webster</i>	...	806	<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	807
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Question put, and negatived.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 25 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 14, line 8, at end, to add, ‘Provided that any sanitary district existing at the time of the passing of this Act shall not gain or lose under the London Equalisation of Rates Act, 1894, in consequence of it being absorbed into a municipal borough; but continue to pay and receive through the borough council on the same basis of rateable value and population as if this Act had not been passed.’”—(Colonel Hughes.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	808	<i>Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.)</i>	...	809
<i>Colonel Hughes</i>	...	809	<i>Lord E. Fitzmaurice</i>	...	809

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	824	<i>Mr. Lough</i>	825, 826
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	826
<i>Sir A. K. Rollit</i> (<i>Islington, S.</i>) ...	...	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	...	826
	825			

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 166 ; Noes, 64. (Division List, No. 154.)

Clause added.

New clause (borough council to provide supply of water—*Colonel Lockwood*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	...	829	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	...	831
<i>Mr. Stuart</i> ...	...	829	<i>Mr. Lough</i> ...	...	831
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	...	829	<i>Mr. Marks</i> (<i>Tower Hamlets, St. George's</i>) ...	...	832
<i>Mr. Banbury</i> ...	...	830	<i>Mr. John Burns</i> ...	...	832
<i>Mr. Lowles</i> ...	...	830			

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 60 ; Noes, 151. (Division List, No. 155.)

It being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Thursday.

Supreme Court (Appeals) Bill [Lords]—Lords Amendment to Commons Amendments to be considered forthwith ; considered, and agreed to ... 835

POST OFFICE (TELEPHONE EXCHANGES)—Return presented,—relative thereto [Ordered 16th May ; *Mr. Provand*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 201.) ... 835

QUESTION.

THE TRANSVAAL—ARREST OF BRITISH SUBJECTS—On the Motion that the House do now adjourn : Question, *Mr. Ellis J. Griffith* (*Anglesey*) ; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.*) ... 836

Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve of the clock.

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COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 17TH MAY 1899.

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Friends' Provident Institution Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed	887
Hastings and St. Leonards Gas Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed	887
Infant Orphan Asylum Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed	887
Renfrew Burgh and Harbour Extension Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed	887
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill —Read the third time and passed	887
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) —Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bournemouth, Bradford (Yorks), and Coventry (two), ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin	887
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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill —"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bournemouth, Bradford (Yorks), and Coventry (two)," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 211)... ..	887
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill —"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the counties of Warwick and Worcester," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 212)	888

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Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill —Petitions in favour ; from Chelston, Kirkby Stephen, Torquay, Kingskerswell, Manchester, Frenchay, Great Yarmouth, and Aylesbury ; to lie upon the Table	889
Town Councils (Scotland) Bill —Petition from Castle Douglas, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	889

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks —Paper [presented 16th May] to be printed. (No. 202.)	889
Public Revenue (Aggregate Receipts) —Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 28th April ; <i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>] ; to lie upon the Table	889

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Rating of Machinery Bill—SECOND READING—Order for Second Reading read.

Sir William Houldsworth (Manchester, N.W.) 889

Notice being taken at half-past twelve that 40 Members were not present, the House was told by Mr. Speaker, and, 24 Members only being present, Mr. Speaker retired from the Chair until Four of the clock, when the House was again told by Mr. Speaker, and, 34 Members only being present, the House was adjourned by Mr. Speaker without question first put till To-morrow.

Adjourned at Four of the clock.

LORDS: THURSDAY, 18TH MAY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Kensington and Notting Hill Electric Lighting ; Midland and South-Western Junction Railway ; Ayr Burgh. And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [Lords] ; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [Lords] ; Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [Lords]. The same were ordered to lie on the Table 891

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Coalville Urban District Gas Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments... ..	894
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Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]—Read the second time (according to Order)	894
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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill —Brought from the Commons; read the first time; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 96.)	895
Portsmouth Corporation Bill [Lords]; Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]; Watermen's and Lightermen's Acts Amendment Bill [Lords]; Workington Corporation Water Bill [Lords]; Great Eastern Railway (General Powers) Bill [Lords]; Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords]; Southport Tramways Bill [Lords]; North Staffordshire Railway Bill [Lords]; London and South-Western Railway Bill [Lords]—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House for the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz., M. Hertford, V. Powerscourt, L. Farnham, L. Monck (V. Monck), L. Herries (chairman); agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Tuesday, 6th June next, at Eleven of the clock: and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills	895
Metropolitan Water Companies Bill —Amendment considered.	
Amendment moved—	
“ At end of Clause 2, to add, ‘ and provided that the total amount of such stock shall not exceed five hundred thousand pounds.’ ”—(<i>Earl Carrington.</i>)	
DISCUSSION :—	
· <i>Lord James of Hereford</i> ... 896 <i>Earl of Kimberley</i> ... 896	
<i>Earl Carrington</i> ... 896 <i>Earl Carrington</i> ... 897	
Amendment negatived.	
An Amendment made: Then Standing Order No. 39 considered (according to Order), and dispensed with: Bill read the third time with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.	
Oysters Bill [Lords]—SECOND READING—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.	
<i>Lord Harris</i> ... 897	
Bill read the second time (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.	

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Money Lending Bill [Lords]—THIRD READING—Bill read the third time (according to Order).

Lord Harris 897

Amendment moved—

“ In Clause 2, Sub-section 4, to add at end of clause, ‘ without notice.’ ”—
(*Lord Ludlow.*)

Lord James of Hereford 902

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“ In Clause 7, page 4, after line 3, insert, ‘ (c) Any body corporate, incorporated or empowered (before the passing of this Act), by a special Act of Parliament to lend money in accordance with such special Act ; or.’ ”—(*Viscount Knutsford.*)

Lord James of Hereford 902

Amendment agreed to.

Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Lincolnshire Coroners Bill [Lords]—Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read the third time on Friday, the 9th day of June next 902**Parish Councillors (Tenure of Office) Bill**—Amendment reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read the third time on Friday the 2nd of June next 903**Public Libraries (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill**—Read the third time (according to Order), and passed 903**Licensing (Disqualification of Justices Removal) Bill** [Lords]—Read the third time (according to Order), and passed, and sent to the Commons ... 903**HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES**—First Report from the Select Committee considered (according to Order), and agreed to 903**Marine Insurance Bill** [Lords]—A Bill for codifying the Law relating to Marine Insurance—was presented by the Lord Chancellor ; read the first time ; and to be printed. (No. 97) 903**Companies Bill** [Lords]—Report from the Select Committee (with Proceedings of the Committee) made, and to be printed. (No. 98.) Bill reported, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House ; and to be printed, as amended. (No. 99.) 903

House adjourned at ten minutes after Five of the clock.

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COMMONS: THURSDAY, 18TH MAY 1899.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (CODE OF REGULATIONS FOR DAY SCHOOLS) —The Comptroller of the Household reported Her Majesty's Answer to the Address of the 17th day of April, as followeth :—"I have received your Address praying Me to withhold My consent to the new portions of Articles 37 and 42, on pages 90 and 91 of the Code of Regulations for Day Schools, which was presented to you on the 21st of March last. I will comply with your advice."	903
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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Horsforth Urban District Council (Water) Bill —Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to	904
Aire and Calder Navigation Bill —(Queen's Consent signified)—Read the third time, and passed... ..	905
Coalville Urban District Gas Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	905
Great Western and Great Central Railway Companies Bill —Read the third time, and passed	905
London and North-Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill —(Queen's Consent signified)—read the third time, and passed	905
London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway (Various Powers) Bill —(Queen's Consent signified)—read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]	995
London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Bill —Read the third time, and passed	905
Manchester Corporation (General Powers) Bill —Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]	905
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IRELAND—PUBLIC MEETING, COUNTY OF MAYO—Motion for Adjournment.

Mr. DAVITT (Mayo, S.) rose in his place, asked leave to move the Adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely :—

"The suppression of a public meeting in the County of Mayo on Sunday last, by a force of armed police, and of an unwarranted interference thereby with the legal right of the people of that county to exercise the privileges of free speech, and of public meeting, for the purpose of discussing their grievances, and of demanding constitutional remedies therefor."

But the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen,

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—(*Mr. Davitt.*)

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Question put—

The House divided :—For the Adjournment, 107; Against, 212. (Division List, No. 156.)

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER)—Motion made, and question put—

"That the proceedings on the London Government Bill, if under discussion at Twelve of the clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 219; Noes, 98. (Division List, No. 157.)

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES—Bill to appoint additional Commissioners for executing the Acts for granting a Land Tax and other Rates and Taxes, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer ... 965
Mr. Stevenson (Suffolk, Eye) ... 965

Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill—To appoint additional Commissioners for executing the Acts for granting a Land Tax and other Rates and Taxes; presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 1st June, and to be printed. (Bill 216.) ... 966

Local Government Bill—Considered in Committee.

New clause :—

"With respect to a mayor of a borough being by virtue of his office a justice of the peace—(1) he shall become a justice of the peace for the County of London; (2) he shall not be disqualified by reason of being a solicitor practising or carrying on business in the County of London or City of London; (3) he shall not practise as a solicitor before any justice of the County of London"—(*Mr. H. J. Robertson*);

brought up, and read the first and second time, and added.

New clause :—

"Nothing in this Act shall authorise any borough council to alienate any recreation ground or other open space dedicated to the use of the public, or any land held on trusts which prohibit building thereon"—(*Mr. Bryce*);

brought up, and read the first and second time, and added.

New clause :—

"The places known as the Inner and Middle Temples shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be within the City of London"—(*The Solicitor General*);

brought up, and read the first and second time, and added.

New clause :—

"As between landlord and tenant every tenant who, if this Act had not been passed, would have been entitled to deduct against or to be repaid by his landlord any sum paid by such tenant on account of the sewers rate shall in like manner be entitled to deduct against or to be repaid by his landlord such portion of the general rate as represents the sewers rate"—(*Mr. Pickersgill*);

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—(*Mr. Davitt.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.)</i> ...	948	<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i> ...	952
<i>The Chief Secretary for</i>		<i>Mr. William Moore (Antrim, N.)</i>	957
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Mr. Stevenson (Suffolk, Eye) ... 965

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brought up, and read the first and second time, and added.

New clause :—

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New clause :—

"The places known as the Inner and Middle Temples shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be within the City of London"—(*The Solicitor General*);

brought up, and read the first and second time, and added.

New clause :—

"As between landlord and tenant every tenant who, if this Act had not been passed, would have been entitled to deduct against or to be repaid by his landlord any sum paid by such tenant on account of the sewers rate shall in like manner be entitled to deduct against or to be repaid by his landlord such portion of the general rate as represents the sewers rate"—(*Mr. Pickersgill*);

brought up, and read the first and second time, and added.

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Schedule 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, line 4, to leave out all the words after 'parishes,' in order to insert, 'included in Schedule A, and districts included in Schedule B, of the Metropolis Management Act of 1855 and amending Acts.'"—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The First Lord of the Treasury</i> (<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour,</i> <i>Manchester, E.</i>)... ..	969	<i>Mr. Causton</i> (<i>Southwark, W.</i>) ...	972
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> (<i>Tower</i> <i>Hamlets, Poplar</i>)	970	<i>Captain Norton</i> (<i>Newington,</i> <i>W.</i>)	972

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, column 1, line 7, to leave out 'Chelsea.'"—(*Mr. L. R. Holland.*)

Question proposed, "That 'Chelsea' stand part of the Schedule."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Whitmore</i> (<i>Chelsea</i>)	974	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	975
<i>Sir T. G. Fardell</i> (<i>Padding-</i> <i>ton, S.</i>)	974		

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, column 1, line 8, after 'Fulham,' to insert 'Hackney.'"—(*Sir A. Scoble.*)

Question proposed, "That 'Hackney' be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. H. J. Robertson</i> (<i>Hack-</i> <i>ney, S.</i>)	977	<i>Mr. Stuart</i> (<i>Shoreditch, Hoxton</i>)... ..	978
		<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	978

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After 'Hackney,' to insert, 'except the portion thereof included in the Parliamentary division of North Hackney.'"—(*Mr. Bousfield.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Cohen</i> (<i>Islington, E.</i>)	981	<i>Mr. Lowles</i> (<i>Shoreditch, Hagger-</i> <i>ston</i>)	981
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Question put, and negatived.

Original Amendment again proposed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, column 2, line 7, to leave out 'Lewisham.'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question, "That, 'Lewisham,' stand part of the Schedule," put, and negatived.

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, column 2, line 7, after 'Fulham,' to insert 'Mile End Old Town.'"—(*Mr. Steadman.*)

Question proposed, "That 'Mile End Old Town' be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Charrington</i> (<i>Tower Hamlets, Mile End</i>) ...	983	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	987
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	983	<i>Mr. Stuart</i> ...	987
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<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	986	<i>Mr. Steadman</i> (<i>Tower Hamlets, Stepney</i>) ...	989

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, column 2, line 7, to insert, after the word 'Lambeth,' the words, 'the areas of Mile End Old Town and St. George's-in-the-East and the districts of Limehouse and Whitechapel.'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'Whitechapel,' to insert the words, 'and Poplar.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Samuel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and Poplar,' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	991	<i>Mr. L. R. Holland</i> ...	991
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Question put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, column 2, line 7, after 'Fulham,' to insert 'Newington.'"—(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed, "That 'Newington' stand part of Schedule."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. James Bailey</i> (<i>Waltham</i>) ...	991	<i>Colonel Hughes</i> (<i>Woolwich</i>) ...	994
<i>The Attorney-General</i> (<i>Sir Richard Webster, Isle of Wight</i>) ...	992	<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> ...	994
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		<i>Mr. Lough</i> ...	997
		<i>Captain Norton</i> ...	997
		<i>Mr. Causton</i> ...	997

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last inserted to insert, 'the area of the Parliamentary division of Holborn.'"—(*The Solicitor-General.*)

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DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Richards (Finsbury, E.) 997 *Sir Edward Clarke* 998

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“To insert, ‘the area of the Parliamentary divisions of East and Central Finsbury.’”

Amendment agreed to.

Further Amendment proposed—

“To insert, ‘the areas of the Parliamentary boroughs of Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, Deptford, Greenwich, Lewisham, and Woolwich.’”

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 15, line 12, of the Schedule, to leave out the words ‘and Wandsworth.’”—(*Mr. Robert Wallace.*)

Question proposed, “That the words, ‘and Wandsworth’ stand part of the Schedule.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Kimber (Wandsworth)</i>	1000	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	...	1002
<i>Mr. Thornton (Clapham)</i>	1001	<i>Mr. Robert Wallace (Perth)</i>	...	...	1002
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1001	<i>Mr. John Burns (Buttersea)</i>	...	...	1002
<i>Mr. Kimber</i>	...	...	...	...	1002

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 118 ; Noes, 58. (Division List, No. 158.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 15, line 13, ‘to leave out from the words “area of the,” to the end of the Schedule, and insert the words, “parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, and the parish of St. George, Dover Square, the area of the parish of St. James, Westminster, and the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and the district of the Strand Board of Works.”’”—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Burdett-Coutts (Westminster)</i>	...	...	1006	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	...	1008
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	...	...	1007	<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	...	...	1008

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 120 ; Noes, 49. (Division List, No. 159.)

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 2 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 16, to leave out lines 6 to 11.”—(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the Schedule.”

Sir R. B. Finlay 1011

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Amendment proposed—

“ In page 16, column 2, line 20, before ‘ subject,’ insert, ‘ subject to bye-laws and regulations to be made by the County Council, and.’ ”

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

Sir R. B. Finlay ... 1012 *Captain Sinclair* ... 1012

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 16, to leave out lines 24 to 27.”—(*Sir John Dickson-Poynder.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 1013

Amendment negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 17, to leave out lines 28 to 32.”—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, “ That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule.”

Sir R. B. Finlay ... 1014

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 3, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported ; as amended, to be considered upon Monday, 5th June, and to be printed. (Bill 217.)

Factories and Workshops Amendment and Consolidation—Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to factories and workshops, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Caldwell, Sir Charles Cameron, Mr. Pirie, Mr. Souttar, and Mr. Colville ... 1014

Factories and Workshops Amendment and Consolidation Bill—“ To amend and consolidate the law relating to factories and workshops,” presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 1st June, and to be printed. (Bill 218.) ... 1014

Adjourned at half-past Twelve of the clock.

COMMONS : FRIDAY, 19TH MAY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords]—(No Standing Orders not previously inquired into applicable)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders not previously inquired into are applicable, viz. :—Wishaw Water Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time ... 1015

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PRIVATE BILLS [Lords] —(STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Dundee Gas, Tramways and Extension Bill [Lords]—changed to, Dundee Gas, Street Improvements, and Tramways Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time	1015
PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS —(STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH.)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Housing of the Working Classes Provisional Order (Borrowstounness) Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Wednesday, 31st May	1015
Burley-in-Wharfedale Urban District Water Bill —Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to	1016
Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton Urban District Council Water Bill —Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to	1016
Leith Harbour and Docks Bill —(Queen's Consent signified)—Read the third time, and passed	1016
Belfast Corporation Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	1016
Cambridge University and Town Gas Bill [Lords] —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	1016
Glastonbury Water Bill [Lords] —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	1016
Queen's Ferry Bridge Bill [Lords] —As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time	1016
South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies (New Lines) Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	1016
PRIVATE BILLS —Ordered, That Standing Orders 39, 129, and 230 be suspended, and that the time for depositing Petitions and Memorials against Private Bills, or against any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, and for depositing duplicates of any documents relating to any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the recess.—(<i>The Chairman of Ways and Means.</i>)	1016
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill —Read the third time, and passed	1016
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday, 31st May	1016
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday, 31st May	1017

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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday, 31st May ...	1017
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday, 31st May ...	1017
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDERS (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES) (No. 2) —Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Waterford and Thurles, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland and Mr. Solicitor-General for Ireland ...	1017
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) —Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Isle of Thanet (Rural), Ramsgate, Reading, and Rhyl, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplain ...	1017
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FOREIGN SUGAR —Petition from Greenock, for imposition of countervailing duties ; to lie upon the Table	1018
GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES) —Petitions in favour ;—From East Cowes, Edmonton, Penmaenmawr, Enfield, Connah's Quay, Portsea Island, Bolton, Tunstead, Great Grimsby, Wandsworth, Soothill Upper, Hebden, South Lambeth, Menai Bridge, St. Thomas, Ripley, Sunderland, Cainscross, Fleetwood, Manchester, Vectis Building Society, Danden Industrial Co-operative Society, Limited, Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, Limited, Pwllheli, and Armfield Plain ; to lie upon the Table	1018

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INLAND REVENUE (PROSECUTIONS UNDER GAME LAWS)—Return presented,—relative thereto [Ordered 23rd March ; <i>Mr. William Redmond</i>] ; to lie upon the Table	1020
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Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House :—

PUBLIC RECORDS (ADMIRALTY)—Copy of Fifth Schedule, containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents which have been removed from the Office of the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and deposited in the Public Record Office, but which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein [by Act] ...	1020
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EAST INDIA (FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1899–1900)—Address for “Copy of the Indian Financial Statement for 1899–1900, and of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Governor-General thereon.”—(<i>Sir Henry Fowler</i>).	1020
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MASTERS, MATES, ENGINEERS (SUSPENSION, &C., OF CERTIFICATES)—Return ordered, “showing all Suspensions and Cancellations of Certificates of Masters, Mates, or Engineers, under Clause 242 of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, or Clause 469 of The Merchant Shipping Act of 1894, ordered by the Board of Trade since the year 1887, showing in each case (1) the nature of the offence of which such person had been convicted, and (2) whether the Certificate was cancelled or suspended, and if suspended, for how long.”—(<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>).	1020
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SOUDAN EXPEDITION, 1898—THE GRANT TO LORD KITCHENER—Statement, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) ... 1033

THE WHITSUNTIDE ADJOURNMENT—Motion made and Question proposed—

“That this House at its rising do adjourn till Wednesday, 31st May, and that at the conclusion of Government business this day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put.”—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

DISCUSSION :—

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

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AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS ACT.

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The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. G. Murray, Butehire) ... 1037 *Captain Sinclair* ... 1040

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SCOTTISH AFFAIRS—LIQUOR REFORM—ARMY STATISTICS.

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TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

Mr. J. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) ... 1051

SCOTTISH AFFAIRS.

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) ... 1052

Question put, and agreed to

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Resolved—

"That this House at its rising do adjourn till Monday, 31st May, and that at the conclusion of Government business this day, Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put."

MERCHANT SHIPPING (LIMITATION OF LIABILITY OF SHIPOWNERS)—Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, with respect to the limitation of the liability of Shipowners, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Charles M'Arthur, Sir Francis Evans, Mr. Warr, Sir Charles Cayzer, Colonel Denny, Sir John Leng, and Mr. W. F. Lawrence ... 1055

SECONDARY EDUCATION—Bill for the provision of Secondary Education, and for other purposes connected with Education, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Evelyn Cecil, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Cripps, Viscount Cranborne, and Mr. Griffith-Boscawen ... 1055

Merchant Shipping (Limitation of Liability of Shipowners) Bill—
 "To amend The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, with respect to the limitation of the liability of Shipowners," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 12th June, and to be printed. (Bill 221.) ... 1055

Secondary Education Bill—"For the provision of Secondary Education, and for other purposes connected with Education," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 5th June, and to be printed. (Bill 222.) ... 1055

SUPPLY—[10TH ALLOTTED DAY]—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

£1,316,232, to complete the sum for Inland Revenue.

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Mr. Weir</i>	<i>(Ross and</i>	<i>The Financial Secretary to the</i>
<i>Cromarty)</i>	<i>... ..</i>	<i>Treasury (Mr. Hanbury,</i>
	<i>... ..</i>	<i>Preston)</i>
	1056	1056

Resolution agreed to.

CLASS II.

£9,446, to complete the sum for Lunacy Commission, England.

£67, to complete the sum for the Mint, including Coinage.

£9,274, to complete the sum for National Debt Office.

DISCUSSION—

<i>Mr. Weir</i>	<i>... ..</i>	<i>1056</i>	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	<i>... ..</i>	<i>1056</i>
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Resolution agreed to.

£14,300, to complete the sum for Public Record Office.

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£13, to complete the sum for Public Works Loan Commission.

£26,884, to complete the sum for Registrar-General's Office, England.

£36,393, to complete the sum for Works and Public Buildings.

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That a sum not exceeding £13,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services.”

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolutions to be reported upon Thursday, 1st June ; Committee to sit again upon Wednesday, 31st May.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House this day, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at a quarter after Six of the clock, till Wednesday, 31st May.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech signifies removal of the matter.

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION)

IN THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, APPOINTED
TO MEET THE 7TH FEBRUARY 1899, IN THE 62ND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

PART I. SIXTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1899.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 8th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :

GREAT NORTHERN AND STRAND RAILWAY.

LONDON, BRIGHTON AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY (PENSIONS).

Also the Certificate that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill :

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

VOL. LXXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the petitions for the following Bills, viz. :

BROOKE'S PARK (LONDONDERRY) AND OWEN'S COLLEGE (MANCHESTER), ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bills.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the petitions for the following Bills, viz. :

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (No. 2), and MILLWALL DOCK.

ought to be dispensed with.

Read, and agreed to.

JONES'S DIVORCE BILL [Lords].

Petition of Charlotte Jane Jones, of St. Helen's, Dalkey, in the County of Dublin, that substituted service of a copy of the Bill be made upon Robert Colvill Jones and Ffolliott Jones, cousins of Robert Colvill Jones, the husband of the said

A

Charlotte Jane Jones; and that the depositions of A. M. Harry Jagesvari, alias Bigili, and Anupa, taken on commission in India in pursuance of orders of the Queen's Bench Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland, dated the 16th of January, 1899, and the 29th of March, 1899, be received in evidence on the Second Reading of the Bill, or that in the alternative the examination of the said A. M. Harry Jagesvari, alias Bigili, and Anupa, touching the allegations mentioned in the petition, be taken in India, and that a proper warrant, or warrants, be issued for that purpose; read.

Ordered that the said petition be considered on Friday next.

TRANSCAAL MORTGAGE LOAN AND FINANCE COMPANY BILL [Lords].

Report from the Select Committee, that the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 20th of March and Tuesday last discharged; and Bill committed.

BURY CORPORATION WATER BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Select Committee with amendments.

BEXHILL AND ST. LEONARDS TRAM-ROADS BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Select Committee with amendments.

WAKEFIELD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Select Committee with amendments.

ST. NEOT'S WATER BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Select Committee with amendments.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (PILOTAGE) BILL [Lords].

Reported with amendments.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (FINANCE) BILL [Lords].

Reported with amendments.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN RAILWAY BILL.

Committee to meet on Wednesday next

WOODHOUSE AND CONISBROUGH RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL.

Committee to meet on Wednesday next.

STRETFORD GAS BILL [Lords].

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The order made on the 6th of March last discharged; and Bill committed.

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS GAS BILL [Lords].

Read 3a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

SOUTH HANTS WATER BILL [Lords].

Read 3a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

RENFREW BURGH AND HARBOUR EXTENSION BILL [Lords].

Read 3a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

LISBURN TOWN COMMISSIONERS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1a; and referred to the Examiners.

SCUNTHORPE URBAN DISTRICT GAS AND WATER BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1a; and referred to the Examiners.

LOUGHBOROUGH AND SHEEPSED RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with amendments.

WISHAW WATER BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Select Committee without amendment.

WICK AND PULTENEY HARBOURS BILL [Lords].

The Queen's Consent signified; and Bill reported with amendments.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed for the use of the Members of this House; but no copies thereof to be delivered, except to Members of the Committee and to such other persons as the Committee shall think fit, until further order. (No. 81.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3a To-morrow.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (VOLUNTEERS).

Annual return of the Volunteer corps for 1898.

COMMERCIAL, No. 4 (1899) (SUEZ CANAL).

Returns of shipping and tonnage in 1896, 1897, and 1898 [in continuation of Commercial, No. 4 (1898)].

TRADE REPORTS.

Annual series—

No. 2250. France (Bordeaux and District).

No. 2251. France (Pondicherry and Karikal).

No. 2252. Greece (The Cyclades).

No. 2253. Netherlands (Java).

No. 2254. Austria-Hungary (Trieste).

TREATY SERIES, No. 11 (1899).

Exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom and Russia with regard to their respective railway interests in China.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT).

Return of prices of agricultural produce for the years 1881 to 1898 inclusive.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITION.

VACCINATION ACT, 1898.

Petition for repeal of ; of Guardians of the Leominster Union: read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM BILL
[Lords].

Read 3a and passed, and sent to the Commons.

FRIEND'S PROVIDENT INSTITUTION BILL [Lords].

Read 3a, and sent to the Commons.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS (AMENDMENT BILL [Lords].

To be read 2a on Tuesday, the 16th instant.

QUESTIONS.

THE ARMY AND RITUALISTIC SERVICES.

***LORD GREVILLE:** My Lords, I rise to ask the Secretary of State for War, whether the soldiers stationed at Brighton, who are members of the Church of England, are marched each Sunday to St. Martin's Church, the incumbent of which is a member of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament and of the English Church Union, and at which the law is violated every Sunday by the use of incense, vestments, lights, and other illegal practices, for the performance of which services Mr. Hardy Little now receives from the Government 50*l.* per annum; and whether such involuntary participation in lawbreaking will continue to be enforced upon the rank and file with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government. You, no doubt, my Lords, are aware that all recruits on joining the Service have to inform the authorities, or the authorities ask them, what religious persuasion they belong to, and then they, of course, are marched on Sundays, and perhaps on other days as well, to a church or denomination they say they wish to belong to. I should have thought the Government could have found in Brighton plenty of churches representing the Protestant religion, or the Church of England, instead of which, as my question implies, these men are taken *volens volens* to a church which practises a new religion—which I never heard of until the other day, and perhaps your Lordships have not heard much about it—called the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. That is not a religion, surely, which belongs to the Church of England, and if it does not belong to the Church of England why should the Government

allow our soldiers to attend services in connection with that religion? And then, again, Mr. Little is paid 50*l.* a year by Her Majesty's Government for being the Chaplain of this St. Martin's Church, and surely it is not very good for the Army, which has been celebrated for its discipline, to be taken to a church wherein lawlessness exists. I have had letters from all parts of England, from five officers, from 20 non-commissioned officers, and 21 privates and troopers, all saying that they are powerless and can make no complaints of being taken to these Ritualistic churches; they are taken *volens volens* either to such churches or to one of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. In addition to that, I have letters from three clergymen who wrote and said that they had themselves acted as chaplains and are perfectly well aware of the state of things that is going on in many churches. One clergyman said that I was at liberty to read his letter to your Lordship's House, but I wrote back to him that I thought it better not to read it, as perhaps some of the Ritualistic Bishops would boycott this clergyman. To convince your Lordships of the sort of service which is held, I will, with your Lordships' permission, read to you exactly what took place on Sunday, May 7th, at Brighton, at this church, where the clergyman is Mr. Hardy Little:—

1. In the reredos at the back of the Communion Table is an idolatrous image of the Virgin Mary, with the infant Saviour in her arms.
2. Three large sanctuary lamps are kept burning before the Communion Table.
3. An illegal brass cross forms part of the Communion Table.
4. Thirty-six candles are on or over the Communion Table.
5. A processional cross forms part of the paraphernalia of the church.
6. There are three confessional places in the church, each supplied with a crucifix.
7. In the side chapel is a tabernacle for the reserved Sacrament.
8. A sanctuary lamp is kept burning in the side chapel.
9. There are a number of framed pictures of saints and angels in various parts of the church.
10. At the service yesterday morning, when Her Majesty's troops were

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present, the following prayers were omitted: (a) the Prayer for the Queen's Majesty; (b) the Prayer for the Royal Family; and (c) the Prayer for the High Court of Parliament.

So the House of Lords has been put out into the cold. But next:—

11. The vicar, in pronouncing the Benediction, unlawfully made the sign of the cross over the people.
12. At the Communion Service the celebrant wore the following illegal vestments:—A chasuble, alb, stole, maniple, and biretta.
13. A procession marched round the church, consisting of a thurifer, cross-bearer, acolytes carrying lighted candles and banners, accompanied by the vicar in biretta and embroidered cope.
14. At the Communion thirty-six candles were lighted unlawfully when not required for the purpose of giving light.
15. Incense was used.
16. Two acolytes with lighted candles stood at the north end of the Table during the reading of the Gospel.
17. Immediately before the consecration of the elements the large bell of the church was tolled.
18. The manual acts were entirely hidden, contrary to law.
19. At the words, "This is My body," the celebrant elevated the paten, and then knelt, the bell outside being tolled and lighted candles elevated, after which the acolytes prostrated themselves with their faces to the ground.
20. Wafer bread was unlawfully used.
21. The celebrant administered the Communion contrary to the Rubric, as there was only one communicant.

That is the service which took place yesterday, and to which Her Majesty's troops were sent. I very much hope to hear that the Government, or the Minister for War, will be able to give some explanation why our soldiers should go to this sort of church, and why the rate-payers should pay their money to Mr. Little, who, I think, cannot call himself a member of the Church of England if these sort of practices exist at his church.

Here is a letter which I am at liberty to read to your Lordships ; it is a letter from Brighton, which I received this morning :—

“ I have heard complaints of both non-commissioned officers and privates of the different regiments stationed here—the Scots Greys, Lancers, Dragoons, Royal Irish, the Sussex, and the Buffs, the latter of whom are stationed here at present. Many of them complain, and do not care to go to church at all. Some say it is of no use to make any objection, as no notice would be taken of it. I have been in business here for nearly thirty years, and have had numerous transactions with both officers and men of the different regiments, and can fully endorse all that has been said on the subject. I myself am driven away from St. Martin's, which is my parish church, on account of the Romish teaching and practices. The children in both Sunday and day-schools are taught to call themselves ‘ little Catholics,’ and to deny being Protestants.”

That is signed, and the name of the gentleman who wrote it is Mr. Fisk. There is one other paragraph, from a letter sent to me by an officiating chaplain for Her Majesty's forces, and it gives a case that occurred at Aldershot. A well-known colonel was in command, and a clergyman came down to officiate for the regular chaplain, and introduced some Ritualistic antics into the service. Afterwards the colonel drew up his men and addressed them in the following laconic terms :—

“ Those who play at soldiers are fools ; but those who play at religion are blackguards. I shall rectify this.”

Next morning he reported the matter to the Duke of Cambridge, and the clergyman referred to never again appeared at Aldershot while that officer was in command. There are at the present moment twelve chaplains who are all paid by the Government for—shall we say ?—doing their duty. Two are at Aldershot, two at Colchester, one at Dover, five in Egypt, one at Halifax (Nova Scotia), and one in London ; and of these twelve, four are members of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, and the others are all members of the English Church Union. I have the names here at the disposal of any noble Lord who desires to know them. I think I have said all that I have really got to say about this matter at Brighton, but I propose in another fortnight or so to bring up this subject again before your Lordships' House with regard to a place at Col-

chester, for I have got some letters in regard to it which I am at liberty to read to your Lordships, including one from a colonel who has retired from the Army, and is therefore at liberty to have his views expressed. But I think I may read one short sentence from Sir William Harcourt's celebrated book. This is how he winds up :—

“ For the present I confess I feel obliged to adhere to the two very pregnant opinions expressed by Lord Salisbury : first, that there is at present no discipline in the Church of England ; and, secondly, that no man is fit for office in that Church who is not resolved to stand by the Prayer Book as it is.”

LORD TEYNHAM: My Lords, as the noble Marquess can hardly answer the noble Lord opposite without reference to the Questions which stand in my name, it may be convenient perhaps that I should ask my Questions now—namely, How many regiments have been stationed at Brighton since the incumbency of Mr. Hardy Little ; Whether any complaints have ever been made to the authorities previous to the arrival of the present regiment ; Whether Colonel Hickson, the present commanding officer, has, in fact, made any complaint ; Whether the service at which the regiment attends is not Morning Prayer and a service at which no “ ritual ” is used ; Whether Colonel Hickson has been directed to inquire of every officer, non-commissioned officer, and man, if they object to any portion of the service ; and, if so, Whether all other commanding officers will be directed to make a similar inquiry. I am quite certain that the noble Lord opposite (Lord Greville) had no intention of misleading this House by suggesting in his question that the soldiers stationed in Brighton are participating in what he calls law-breaking by their being present at the performance of the acts of which he complained. But I desire to ask the noble Marquess whether it is not a fact that the only service at which the soldiers are called to be present at Brighton is, Morning Prayer with sermon, at which no ritual whatever, so-called, is used ? I may add that the only way that service departs from common rule is that “ God save the Queen ” is played at the end. I am not sorry that the noble Lord opposite has put this question, because it enables a public exposure to be made.—not for the first time—of a body calling itself the Church Association, which exists for the purpose of stirring up strife in the Church and for

setting ministers against congregations and congregations against ministers. I am informed that there have been six regiments stationed at Brighton during the incumbency of Mr. Hardy Little, as enumerated by the noble Lord, and one of these, the Royal Irish Rifles, is a regiment in which I am interested. When the noble Lord announced his intention of putting this question, it was communicated to Col. Knox, who commanded them when they were stationed at Brighton, and with your Lordships' permission I will read a letter from him, addressed to Mr. Hardy Little and dated April 24th. Col. Knox says:—

"I have seen in the papers that a question is to be asked in Parliament as to the services conducted in St. Martin's Church for the military—namely, exception has been taken to Ritualistic ceremonies, and the question will be that the military do not in future attend in this church. As you know, I was commanding my regiment, the Royal Irish, for two years in Brighton, from 1894 to 1896. This regiment is largely composed of North of Ireland men from the Belfast district. The military service consisted of Morning Prayer, and the service was of an ordinary character. As Colonel of the regiment I frequently attended the service, and was always struck by the great interest the men took in it, and I never had from anyone, either officer or man, a single complaint as to the way the service was conducted. The band of the regiment, under my sanction, and at the wish of the officers, used to give their services voluntarily to assist the choir. I can only say that, from my experience, the services at St. Martin's were heartily appreciated by myself and all members of the battalion. The fact that the regiment is largely recruited from the Belfast district of the North of Ireland, shows that there was nothing in the service disloyal to the Church to which they belong."

I think that letter is sufficiently emphatic. I think it is quite clear from it that no complaint of any description was made, and, further than that, that the soldiers appreciated the service. I believe that the same is the case with the regiment stationed there now; and I think that as it is with the soldiers, so it is with the civil parishioners. It may be within the knowledge of your Lordships that the Church Association sent out circulars shortly before the Easter Vestries, addressed to Churchwardens. That circular fell flat, and it fell nowhere flatter than at Brighton. The meeting there was duly held; the room was filled, and the meeting was unanimously in favour of the Vicar. In fact, my Lords, this trouble at Brighton has been entirely got up by the Church Association. It is

Lord Teynham.

like a great deal more in connection with this Church crisis—a got-up affair. I see the noble Lord refers in his question to "the use of incense, vestments, lights, and other illegal practices." This is not the place in which to discuss the right and wrong of these matters. But how does the noble Lord know that they are illegal? The Most Rev. the Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking in London last week, used these words:—

"The man who said that incense was idolatrous showed that he did not know the meaning of the word idolatrous. But when he said it was illegal, that was another matter altogether. That was a question which was going to be looked into and settled."

With regard to lights, they were expressly allowed by the Lambeth judgment, and confirmed by the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Lights have always been used for other than illumination purposes. I believe they were used at the Coronation of Charles the First. At present they are used in most of our cathedrals, in ten college chapels at Oxford, in eight college chapels at Cambridge. Lights are at present in use in 4,000 parish churches of the Church of England, and in most large cities, such as Manchester, Liverpool, and London—and also at Hatfield. With regard to vestments, their legality was not even contested in the Lincoln case. I submit, therefore, that to call these things illegal practices is simply begging the question. Mr. Cecil Rhodes, in his speech at the Mansion House a few days ago, said that in his Church they were engaged quarrelling over ritual, while in the Salvation Army a great social and religious work was being done. My Lords, it is no doubt true that the work of the Church is being largely hampered, but it is not by those who use ritual, but by the efforts of those who try to put ritual down. Mr. Hardy Little is popular in his parish, where he has a population of 10,000, mostly poor; he is keeping four curates, he has flourishing schools, Bible Classes for men and women, and in fact all the machinery of a well-ordered parish. Mr. Hardy Little is a poor man; he takes no rent for his pews, and the whole of his assured income is £200 a year, and it is from that man the noble Lord opposite wishes to take the Government pittance of £50 a year. I earnestly trust that in the name of common justice the Government will do nothing of the kind, and that this capita-

tion grant will not be taken from him. I am told that Col. Hickson, commanding the Buffs, stationed at Brighton now, has been directed to inquire individually of the officers and men as to whether they had any objection to the services. I think this is fishing for discontent in an extraordinary manner, and I hope that the answer of the noble Marquess will show that the Government have not been doing anything of the kind. I beg to ask all the questions standing in my name on the paper.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS of LANS-
DOWNE): My Lords, I cannot help thinking that your Lordships must have been struck by what I am tempted to describe as the forensic ingenuity with which these two sets of questions have been framed. I should have been glad if it had been possible for me to leave the noble Lord who spoke second to dispose of the noble Lord who spoke first, but I suppose I shall be expected to say a few words as to the manner in which this case presents itself to the War Office. I think it will be convenient that I should first reply to the questions addressed to me by Lord Teynham. In reply to him I have to say that so far as I can discover Mr. Hardy Little came to St. Martin's in the year 1887, and that since that time, I think, four regiments of cavalry and the headquarters of three battalions of infantry, besides sundry detachments, have been stationed at Brighton. No complaints have until now reached the War Office as to the character of the ceremonial followed at St. Martin's during the services which the troops attend. Colonel Hickson did not, in fact, volunteer any complaint in regard to this matter, but when the noble Lord opposite (Lord Greville) put his question upon the paper we desired him to report whether, within his knowledge, there was anything in the ceremonial which was repugnant to the troops under his command. That, I think, was a very fair inquiry to address to him. Of course, it was not as if we had asked him to advise us as to the legality of these practices. I should be very sorry to constitute any military officer, however distinguished, an arbiter of the legality of religious ceremonial. The noble Lord refers to the services attended by the troops. It is quite true that the service is an ordinary

morning service—matins—followed by a sermon, and it is attended not only by the troops, but also by a considerable civil congregation. I have endeavoured to find out something as to the character of the ceremonial followed at these morning services. I have seen a letter from the Vicar of Brighton, and I understand the Parish of St. Martin's is an offshoot of the Parish of Brighton. The vicar writes that his information is to the effect that the service is conducted in the simplest possible fashion, and that he has never received any complaints with regard to it, though he has frequently conversed upon the subject with the commanding officers concerned. The incumbent himself—Mr. Hardy Little—states positively that there is no ritual, in the sense of anything unusual, at this service, and the Chaplain-General, whom I have consulted, informs me that the service consists of morning prayer and a sermon, that it is perfectly simple, and that in his belief there is no approach to illegality in it. No vestments are worn other than surplices, and no incense is used. The Chaplain-General says it is the ordinary service of all churches. I thought it due to the right reverend Prelate who presides over this diocese—the Bishop of Chichester—to ask him for any observations which he might desire to make, and I gather from his reply that in his view the complaint which has been made is not a reasonable complaint, and that in the services attended by the troops at St. Martin's there is nothing objectionable either upon legal or upon other grounds. The noble Lord asks me whether all other commanding officers will be directed to make investigation similar to that made by Colonel Hickson. My answer to that is in the negative. We wrote to Colonel Hickson in consequence of the notice put upon your Lordships' paper, and for that reason alone. Colonel Hickson's report certainly went to show that what might be described as the general tone of the church and of the services was what I suppose would be colloquially termed "high." I find nothing in his observations that there was any reason for altering the present arrangements under which the troops attend morning service at this church, and under which the incumbent receives the usual capitation grant. I think I have answered the whole of the questions put to me by the noble Lord on my right (Lord Teynham).

The noble Lord opposite (Lord Greville) asks me whether the incumbent is a member of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament and of the English Church Union. I am not able to tell him. I have not asked the incumbent, and I have no intention of asking him. I understand that these are private associations, and if I were to make such an inquiry I should not be surprised were he to tell me in the most polite ecclesiastical language to mind my own business. I have already communicated to your Lordships that we have no reason to doubt the legality of the ceremonial observed at the services attended by the troops, and I wish to make it perfectly clear that it is with those services alone that we are concerned. I do not think it is my business to inquire into the proceedings at the other services. The question of the noble Lord is so framed—I have no doubt unintentionally so framed—that it points, and I think his observations also pointed, not only to the service attended by the troops, but to other services which take place at the same church. And the suggestion of the noble Lord is that the troops are involuntarily participators in law-breaking, because he apprehends that the law is violated at other services at which they do not attend. To stigmatise these soldiers as law-breakers because they attend at one hour a church at which the noble Lord supposes the law to be broken at another hour seems to me a strange interpretation of the words, and I doubt whether any such view of law-breaking can be established from anything to be found in the Statute Book. Upon the whole, then, I see no occasion for altering the present arrangements, and as at present advised I do not propose to do so. Perhaps before I sit down I ought to make clear to your Lordships what is our policy in dealing with this matter. That policy is, I think, very well expressed in the instructions which are issued to the Regular Army chaplains. Those chaplains are expressly warned to be careful not to adopt any custom of doubtful legality, or which is likely to offend really earnest worshippers in the congregation. That seems to me a wise and sensible instruction, and I think that the same rule should apply to those cases in which the troops are ministered to, not by Army chaplains, but by other clergymen, and I can assure the noble Lord opposite that if in any case

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we have good reason to believe that the services attended by the troops are such as to give offence to really earnest worshippers amongst our soldiers we should think it necessary to take notice of the fact, and to modify our arrangements accordingly.

PARISH COUNCILLORS (TENURE OF OFFICE) BILL (SECOND READING).

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: My Lords, I hope you will be willing to give a Second Reading to this very short and simple Bill. It enjoyed a quiet and cheerful passage through the other House of Parliament, and received the approval of the Secretary of the Local Government Board. Although it is short and simple, it introduces a very radical change in the position of a Parish Councillor, as it alters his tenure of office from one year to three years. By the first Clause of the Bill the tenure becomes three years, the same as that enjoyed by members of other local authorities—District and County Councils, and School Boards. The operation of the Bill begins in 1901, and on the 15th day of April. That date is fixed so as to make the new tenure of the Parish Councillor co-terminous with the tenure of office of the District Councillor. At present the Parish Councils elections are held in March. So much for the practical effect of this Bill. I had better, perhaps, say a word or two as to its good qualities. In the first place, by bringing the Parish Council elections into harmony with the District Council elections, there will be a saving of expense and of machinery. On this particular point of expense I might mention that in a South Devon parish the Parish Council was limited to spend only £13 in its year of office, but this particular Parish Council, no doubt perfectly conscientiously, spent £7 2s. 6d. out of its total assets on a poll, which only left them a little over £5 for carrying on such improvements in the village as might have appeared desirable. Another advantage I claim is that under this Bill you get more continuity into the work of the Parish Council, and I think you would also get this other advantage, that Parish Councillors would be encouraged to make themselves acquainted with the Act. If a man is only elected

for a year, he naturally does not take so much trouble as he would if he was elected for three years to make himself acquainted with the duties of the Parish Council. Under the present system, with the elections in March, and the Parish Council not taking up its work till well on in April, the Parish Council may be said to go into winter quarters early in February, because the outgoing Parish Council does not care very much about initiating any new work. Another advantage is that in some districts the turmoil of annual elections will be got rid of. Nervous and irritable people may be more inclined to come forward as Parish Councillors if they know they will not have to expose themselves to the excitement of an election more than once in three years. I hope you will pass the Bill into law just as it stands. Its provisions seem to me to be worded in good plain Queen's language. I believe it to be a straightforward, practical, and valuable measure.

Motion made and Question proposed—

“ That the Bill be now read a second time.”
—(*The Lord Ribblesdale.*)

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (*The MARQUESS of SALISBURY*): At present this appears to me a very plain, straightforward, and practical Bill, and the Government have no sort of objection to its being read a second time. I suspect there is something in it we do not see. I have no doubt we shall discover its advantages on going more into it.

On question, agreed to.

Bill read the second time, and committed.

DISCIPLINE IN MILITARY PRISONS.

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what steps have been taken, or are being taken, to carry into effect the recommendations of a Departmental Committee on Discipline in Military Prisons which reported in June, 1895, with special reference to the condemnation of shot drill and the crank as ordinary forms of prison labour; and to move for papers. I propose to postpone any comment I may have to make until the noble Marquess has replied.

Moved—

“ That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty for the report of a departmental committee on discipline in military prisons which reported in June 1895.”—(*The Lord Monkswell.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Lord need not be at all afraid that the recommendations made by the Departmental Committee over which he presided will be lost sight of. The policy of those recommendations entirely commends itself to us. We are acting upon them, and we shall continue to act upon them as time goes on. Some of those recommendations have already been carried out; others, again, are embodied in new revised rules which are ready for issue, but the issue of which has been delayed under circumstances which have been explained in the other House of Parliament. We intend to deal with the whole of this question of the treatment of military prisoners. It has become an accepted doctrine that habitual criminals ought not to be retained in the Army, and when a soldier commits a serious offence against the civil law it is usual to hand him over to the civil authorities for imprisonment in a civil prison. It comes, then, to this, that these military prisons are used for the imprisonment of soldiers who have committed offences, not against the civil, but against the military laws—offences which are usually described as offences against discipline. We hold very strongly that, although it is desirable to punish such offences in a manner which will deter those who commit them from committing them again, the punishment should be as little as possible of an ignominious or degrading character. That point has been very strongly taken up by the distinguished general officer who commands at Aldershot—Sir Redvers Buller—who has specially called our attention to it, and a Committee, presided over by him, is at this moment sitting, and will report to us on the whole matter. I think I may say that the standpoint from which we now approach the question is a rather broader standpoint than that taken by the Committee presided over by the noble Lord, because he will remember that his Committee stated that they understood the main point to which their investigations were to be directed was the capability of the men on rejoining the regiments after terms of imprisonment to

carry on their military duties without loss of either physical condition or professional knowledge. We, as I said just now, want to push the matter a little further, and to consider whether the imprisonment to which soldiers are subjected should not be made of a somewhat different character, and one equally deterrent, but not so degrading as the kind of punishment to which they have in the past been subjected. I will state to the noble Lord exactly what has been done towards carrying out the recommendations of his Committee, premising, for your Lordships' information, that we have to deal with three kinds of prisons—the large military prisons, which are under the control of the Inspector-General of Military Prisons; the provost prisons under the control of the Commanding Officer of the District; and, finally, the regimental provost prisons, which are under the control of the Officer in command of the Regiment. The first recommendation made by the Committee was that we should limit the licensing of barrack cells to sentences of 14 days and under, and of provost prisons to sentences of 42 days and under. That recommendation has been carried out. The next recommendation was that barrack cells and provost prisons should be lit in the same way as military prisons were lit. That has also been carried out. Then there was a recommendation that in these prisons the hour of putting out the lights should be extended from half-past eight till nine o'clock. That has been carried out in military prisons, and is provided for in the case of the other prisons in the revised rules to which I referred a moment ago. In the next place the Committee recommended that governors should be appointed to the more important military prisons. That has been done in the case, I think, of five or six of the most important of those prisons. Then there is a recommendation that Sunday exercise should be allowed. That has been introduced already in the case of the military prisons. In the case of the provost prisons it is provided for in the new rules. The Committee further recommended that gymnastics, drill, and other forms of military instruction should be allowed. Drill and physical exercise were introduced in the military prisons in 1896. The matter is still under consideration in the case of the provost prisons. Then we come to the recommendation to which the noble Lord attaches most importance—

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

the question of shot drill and the crank. In the military prisons shot drill has, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, been abolished, except as a punishment for prison offences. The use of the crank has not been entirely abolished, but other forms of punishment have, so far as possible, been substituted for it. In the provost prisons shot drill has not yet been abolished, but its abolition is provided for in the revised rules. The same remark applies to the case of barrack cells. The Committee advised that a free choice of library books should be allowed to soldiers during their term of imprisonment. We have accepted that recommendation in part only. We allow a free choice of library books after the first fourteen days. That has been done in the case of military prisons and will be done in the case of the provost prisons under the revised rules. The limit, fourteen days, excludes the barrack cells, in which a prisoner cannot be kept for more than fourteen days, from the scope of this recommendation. Then we come to the only recommendation on which I do not think that anything has yet been done, and that is the recommendation that all prisoners in military prisons should be given compulsory education who, in the opinion of the governor, would derive benefit from it. That matter has been considered, but the question raises a good many difficulties. The change would be troublesome and expensive to make, and it is, as the noble Lord knows, held by some very high authorities—it was held by one member, at least, of the Departmental Committee—that the introduction of this practice would lead to a differentiation between one class of prisoner and another which it was not desirable to introduce, and that it would only have the effect of taking away from these punishments a great part of their deterrent effect. There is one other recommendation, which is that the hair of prisoners in provost and barrack cells should be cut only so far as necessary for cleanliness. That recommendation has been adopted and carried out. I think I have said enough to satisfy the noble Lord that we have by no means lost sight of the recommendations which his Committee has made. It is, of course, necessary, in considering these matters, to remember that there is the risk of making these punishments insufficiently deterrent. We have endeavoured to steer our way judiciously between that danger and the

undoubted defects which existed in the old system of punishment in military prisons.

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I am glad to hear the statements of the noble Marquess. With regard to the motion at the end of my question, I would suggest that, as there is nothing of a private nature in the Report of the Departmental Committee, it should be circulated as a Parliamentary Paper. We not only took evidence, which the noble Marquess may or may not think of some value, but in the Appendix is the experience of foreign countries, particularly of Germany, in the matter of prisons, on which we based a good deal of our Report. I am glad to hear that in military prisons at all events, shot drill and the crank have been abolished.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I said that the crank was not altogether abolished in military prisons.

LORD MONKSWELL: I am sorry to hear that, but I am glad to find that shot drill has been abolished. I am all the more glad because a few weeks ago, in the case of the lamentable death of Trooper Lorrimer, which was discussed in the House of Commons, every member who took part in the Debate was under the misapprehension, shared also by the Under-Secretary for War, that shot drill was still a common form of prison labour in military prisons. I am sorry the noble Marquess has not seen his way to re-introduce compulsory education, which up to 1872 was the rule. Compulsory education is to some extent carried on in civil prisons, and it is even more important that it should be carried on in military prisons. While this Departmental Committee of the War Office was sitting, another Departmental Committee was considering the same questions with regard to civil prisons. That Committee reported about the same time, and their recommendations bore a very striking resemblance to the recommendations put forward by the Departmental Committee of the War Office. If it is considered necessary to increase the teaching in civil prisons, surely it is much more important, if the noble Marquess thinks it is desirable that the difference between military and civil prisons should be accentuated, that you should emphasise that difference by

giving the soldier every opportunity of keeping up his education. In Germany they lay great stress upon keeping up, at all cost, the military education of the prisoner. In Germany the regulations prescribe that the fact is not to be lost sight of, that military prisoners are still soldiers, and will return to military duty. On all occasions, therefore, steps should be taken to foster their soldierly instinct, and to maintain their military bearing. Again, in the matter of gymnastics, I hope the noble Marquess will do everything he possibly can to see that gymnastic exercises are taught in all military prisons. I am glad to hear that most of the recommendations have had some attention paid to them. I would remind the noble Marquess that it is now four years since the Committee reported, and I should have thought that possibly some complete provisions might have been put in force at an earlier date than the noble Marquess seems to have thought necessary.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, the question of education, and, indeed, the other points upon which the noble Lord has touched, will undoubtedly be considered by the Committee which is now sitting, and I will take care that they are considered. I forgot, in replying to the noble Lord, to take notice of his request that I should lay the Report of the Committee on the Table. I hope he will not press me to do so, not because there is anything in the least mysterious or secret in the Report, but because I think it is undesirable that the reports of these Departmental Committees should be presented to Parliament. It is not like the case of the Report of a Parliamentary Committee or of a Royal Commission. Reports of a Departmental Committee of this character are really like official minutes, and what I am afraid of is that if we get into the way of presenting them to Parliament, such Committees will not report to us with the freedom and frankness which they now adopt.

LORD MONKSWELL: I should be the last person to suggest that it should be made a condition in all cases that the Reports of Departmental Committees should be issued as Parliamentary Papers, but when it turns out that there is absolutely nothing in the whole of this Report which is of a secret nature, and when it gives information that some people desire

to have, I should have thought there would have been no objection to lay it on the Table, the more particularly as the Report of a Departmental Committee of the Home Office which has considered exactly the same questions in relation to civil prisons has been published as a Parliamentary Paper. However, I will not press my Motion.

Motion (by leave of the House), withdrawn.

PARISH COUNCILLORS (TENURE OF OFFICE) BILL.

Read 2a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Ordered, that the evening sitting of the House to-morrow do commence at half-past Five of the clock.

House adjourned at half-past Five of the clock, till to-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 8th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

(Standing Order 62 complied with.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EP- PING FOREST RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

(Standing Orders not previously inquired into complied with.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

Lord Monkswell.

BURY CORPORATION BILL [Lords]. SOUTHAMPTON CORPORATION WATER BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

(No Standing Orders not previously inquired into applicable.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders not previously inquired into are applicable, viz. :—

SKIPTON URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS.

(Standing Orders applicable thereto complied with.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow.

EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL,

Read a third time, and passed.

GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAM- WAYS BILL.

Read a third time, and passed.

GLASGOW DISTRICT SUBWAY BILL [Lords].

Read a third time, and passed, without Amendment.

GOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Read a third time, and passed.

AYR BURGH BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY BILL.

As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time.

KENSINGTON AND NOTTING HILL ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

PERTH WATER, POLICE, AND GAS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

REDDITCH GAS BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time.

GREENOCK AND PORT GLASGOW TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

HULL, BARNSELEY, AND WEST RIDING JUNCTION RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

KEW BRIDGE BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

NORFOLK ESTUARY BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD RAILWAY BILL.

Petition for additional Provision ; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (HARROW WEALD) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time To-morrow.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 8) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES PROVISIONAL ORDER (BORROWSTOUNNESS).

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order by the Secretary for Scotland relating to the

burgh of Borrowstounness ; ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Anstruther.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Blackpool, Lynmouth, and Otter Ferry ; ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hanbury.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES PROVISIONAL ORDER (BORROWSTOUNNESS) BILL.

"To confirm a Provisional Order by the Secretary for Scotland relating to the burgh of Borrowstounness," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 178.)

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Blackpool, Lynmouth, and Otter Ferry," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 179.)

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 7).

Ordered, that the Minutes of Evidence on the Bradford Water and Improvement Bill, Session 1881, and Pudsey Gas Bill, Session 1887, be referred to the Committee on Group No. 7 of Railway Bills.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE STIPENDIARY JUSTICE BILL.

Reported, with amendments ; Reports to lie upon the table, and to be printed.

GREAT WESTERN AND GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

Reported, with amendments ; Reports to lie upon the table, and to be printed.

LONDON IMPROVEMENTS BILL.

Reported, with amendments ; Reports to lie upon the table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—
Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.

Clay Cross Water Bill, without Amendment.

Dublin Improvement (Bull Alley Area) Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the powers of the Hastings and Saint Leonards Gas Company; to amend the Acts relating to that Company; and for other purposes." [Hastings and Saint Leonards Gas Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to restore to the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Governors of the Infant Orphan Asylum a strip of land in Epping Forest which has been forfeited by them and become part of the waste of the forest." [Infant Orphan Asylum Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for enabling the Friends' Provident Institution to sue and be sued in the name of a public officer; for more effectually vesting in their trustees for the time being the funds and property of the Institution; for conferring further powers on the Institution as to the investment of their funds; and for other purposes." [Friends' Provident Institution Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the South Hants Waterworks Company to make additional waterworks; to extend the limits of supply of the Company; to raise additional capital; to confer further powers upon the Company; and for other purposes." [South Hants Water Bill [Lords].

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the municipal and police boundaries of the burgh of Renfrew; to authorise the construction of a tidal dock or basin and other works at the harbour; and for other purposes." [Renfrew Burgh and Harbour Extension Bill [Lords].

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS GAS BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

SOUTH HANTS WATER BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

RENFREW BURGH AND HARBOUR EXTENSION BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872.

Petitions for alteration of Law;—From Crewe;—and, Wimbledon; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

Petition from Tenbury, against; to lie upon the Table.

GROCERS' LICENCES (SCOTLAND) ABOLITION BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petitions in favour;—From Bedwelty;—Tredegar;—and, Poplar; to lie upon the Table.

GROUND VALUES (TAXATION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Coatbridge, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour;—From Lower Conygre;—Upper Conygre;—Springfield;—Greyfield;—Black Park;—Westminster;—and Eccleston Hall and Lancaster Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Dumfriesshire, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Wallsend, against ; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

Petition from Edinburgh, for establishment ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

Petition from Waterford, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Salford ;—Camberwell ; Hindley ;—and Newport (Isle of Wight) ; to lie upon the Table.

TEMPERANCE REFORM (THREEFOLD OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Inverness, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

VACCINATION ACT, 1898.

Petition from Dorset, for repeal, to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

ARMY (VOLUNTEER CORPS).

Copy presented, of Annual Return for the year 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Report of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES (IRELAND) (REGULATIONS).

Copy presented, of General Regulations for the Management and Discipline of Certified Inebriate Reformatories in Ireland [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. (No. 182.)

SUEZ CANAL (COMMERCIAL, No. 4, 1899).

Copy presented, of Returns of Shipping and Tonnage, 1896, 1897, and 1898 (in continuation of "Commercial, No. 4, 1898") [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2250 and 2254 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Charitable Endowments (West Riding of the County of York) and Leeds (Inquiry into Charities). Further Return relative thereto (ordered 10th August, 1894, Mr. Francis Stevenson, and 8th April, 1897, Mr. Grant Lawson) ; to be printed. (No. 183.)

2. Charitable Endowments (West Riding of the County of York). Further Return relative thereto (ordered 10th August, 1894 ; Mr. Francis Stevenson) ; to be printed. (No. 184.)

3. Charitable Endowments (West Riding of the County of York), Inquiry into Charities (Parish of Halifax, including County Borough of Halifax), and Huddersfield, County Borough (Charities). Further Return relative thereto (ordered 10th August, 1894, Mr. Francis Stevenson, and 13th May, 1896, and 29th July, 1897, Mr. Grant Lawson) ; to be printed. (No. 185.)

QUESTIONS.

WAGES.—DISTURBANCES IN GLAMORGANSHIRE.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his attention has been called to the decision of the High Court on Monday last, in the case of *The Queen v. the County Council of Glamorgan*, when it was held that the cost of supplies furnished to Her Majesty's troops by Aberdare tradesmen, at the instance of certain local magistrates upon whose request the troops had been brought into the district to maintain order, was not payable by the

County Council, but was an Imperial obligation; and, whether Her Majesty's Government will, in accordance with this decision, pay to such tradesmen the sums due in respect of the goods so furnished?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. J. POWELL WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): The legal points that have been raised by the decision in question have been referred by the Secretary of State to the Law Officers of the Crown, who are considering them.

ROMAN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

MR. CHANNING (Northampton, E.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, what is the number of Roman Catholic elementary schools in receipt of grants to which parents demanding free places for their children have been directed by the Department to send their children; what is the number of Roman Catholic elementary schools to which, owing to there being no other school or no places in other schools, parents are compelled to send their children; whether he will grant a Return of such schools; and, whether, in such Return, the number of children of non-Catholic parents can be included?

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): I am unable to supply the numbers, or to grant the Return, requested by the honourable Member. The Department does not direct parents to send their children to any particular school, but supplies them with the names of schools at which free places are available. This is done without reference to the religious denomination to which the schools belong; and the Department has, as a rule, no information as regards the religious tenets of the parents who make the applications.

DISEASE AT GIBRALTAR.

MR. PIERPOINT (Warrington): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether his attention has been called to the state of affairs in regard to venereal disease which prevails in

Mr. D. A. Thomas.

Gibraltar; whether the committee, which was appointed recently to inquire into the general and sanitary condition of the fortress, has reported on this question; whether he will state to the House the comparative figures as to venereal disease between Gibraltar and the other Mediterranean stations, as well as the Home stations; and, whether any steps are being taken in the matter?

***THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR** (Mr. G. WYNDHAM, Dover): The report from the Committee on Gibraltar has been received. It deals, among other matters, with venereal disease. In respect of the garrison, during the five years ending in 1897, the admissions averaged 290 per thousand in each year, as against 152 at Malta and 170 in the United Kingdom. The average daily number in hospital was 28·3 per thousand, as against 13·5 at Malta and 15·0 at home. The report of the Committee is under consideration.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state how many school boards in Scotland have submitted to the Scotch Education Department during the year 1898 resolutions in favour of the establishment of technical schools, under the Technical Schools (Scotland) Act, 1887; will he state how many of these resolutions referred to day and how many to evening schools; and, whether any such resolutions were received from the Highlandcrofting counties; if so, how many?

***THE LORD ADVOCATE** (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Bute-shire): No resolutions in favour of the establishment of Technical Schools under the Technical Schools (Scotland) Act, 1887, were submitted to the Scotch Education Department during the year 1898.

GAELIC IN HIGHLAND SCHOOLS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, if he will state the number of Gaelic-speaking pupil teachers employed in each of the six Highlandcrofting counties in giving bilingual instruction to Gaelic-speaking children?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The number of pupil teachers in the counties referred to, on whose account payment was made for bilingual instruction to Gaelic-speaking children, was in Argyll 11, Inverness 10, Ross-shire 6, and Sutherland 2.

INSTRUCTION IN COOKERY IN HIGHLAND SCHOOLS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, if he can state the number of classes which have been held for the practical teaching of cooking, under Article 22 of the Scotch Code, in each of the six Highlandcrofting counties during the year 1898; and, will he state the entire amount earned by teachers in respect of cookery in each of the aforesaid counties during the year?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: It is impossible to give the details required in reply to a question. If the honourable Member applies to the Scotch Education Department he will be supplied with a statement of the facts.

MR. WEIR: Will the right honourable Gentleman take care that the information is supplied?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I try to furnish everything the honourable Member asks for.

MR. WEIR: But I mean before the Vote is taken.

*MR. DUNCOMBE (Cumberland, Egremont): Will the right honourable Gentleman answer the honourable Member in Gaelic in future?

FERMANAGH LAND CASES.

*MR. ARCHDALE (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that one legal and one lay Sub-Commissioner have been told off to hear 107 land cases in three days in the county of Fermanagh this month; and, if so, whether, taking into consideration both the Report of the Fry Commission and also the strong remonstrances by both landlords and tenants to their cases being heard by only one lay Commissioner, he will represent to the Land Commission the desirability of appointing another, and also give longer time for hearing the cases.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I am informed that 107 cases from the Enniskillen Union have been listed for hearing before one legal and one lay Assistant Commissioner on the 15th, 16th, and 17th inst. The list comprises a number of cases in which negotiations for purchase are pending, and which may not, therefore, proceed to a hearing. If, however, all the cases should stand for hearing, the Sub-Commission will, if necessary, spend the remainder of the week in disposing of them. It is not intended that the hearing should be hurried in the least degree. It would not be possible to arrange for the hearing of these cases, at the period mentioned, by two lay Assistant Commissioners unless by postponing the hearing of lists from other districts. Sub-Commissions must work with one lay member until the appointment of the additional Assistant Commissioners, already sanctioned, has been perfected; and to postpone lists in the meantime would lead to delay, and would not be satisfactory to the parties.

BILLINGSGATE FISH TOLLS.

*MR. ARCHDALE: I beg to ask President of the Board of Trade, whether he is aware that five times as much toll is charged for land-borne fish at Billingsgate Market as is charged for sea-borne; and, whether, considering the enormous quantity of fish coming into that market by rail from Ireland and the great fishing centres of Great Britain, he can take any steps to remedy that grievance.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. W. H. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby, for the PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE): The amount of tolls charged for fish at Billingsgate Market is a matter as to which I have no jurisdiction. I have, however, received the following statement from the Markets Department of the Corporation of the City of London:—

“The rate charged for land-borne fish represents about one halfpenny for 112lbs., and for water-borne fish about one farthing for the same quantity. The toll is levied in the case of land-borne fish upon each van or machine, and in the case of water-borne fish according to the tonnage of the vessel. At the present time but half toll is levied on water-borne fish, having regard to special representations made

by the trade, so that when the full toll authorised by the bye-laws is again levied the result will be that land-borne and water-borne fish will, as a rule, pay about the same rate of toll, which the Commissioners on Market Rights and Tolls refer to in their final Report of January, 1891, as inappreciable."

UNITED STATES TARIFF.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the injury that has been done to our trade by the present United States tariff, the Foreign Office will enter into specific commercial negotiations with the Government of the United States with a view to obtain either some modifications in the tariff, or to propose retaliatory measures.

*THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. ST. JOHN BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Any opportunity which may occur to make more favourable arrangements as regards Tariffs with the United States will be taken advantage of, but I cannot promise any immediate action.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state what steps, if any, have been taken to carry out the promise given by the Home Secretary in 1890 with respect to lodging allowance for members of the Metropolitan Police Force serving in town divisions.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancs., Blackpool): I am not aware of any promise such as is suggested having been given by any predecessor of mine, and I am afraid I do not see my way to give any such promise now.

DR. LAMONT'S CASE.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, whether he is aware that Dr. Lamont did not leave South Uist until the evening of the 15th of last September, and why, therefore, the warrant for his apprehension, dated 10th September, was not executed before he left the island; whether the police, who arrested Dr. Lamont in his mother's house in Glasgow at 12 o'clock p.m. on 17th September, had

in their possession the warrant for his apprehension, and whether they exhibited that warrant to him when apprehending him; whether he is aware that, before leaving Lochboisdale on 15th September, Dr. Lamont gave Police Sergeant Philip his address in Glasgow at his mother's house; and, if this is denied, if he would state how the police officer who arrested Dr. Lamont in Glasgow knew exactly where to find him; whether Dr. Mackenzie, the honorary Sheriff-substitute, who granted warrants for Dr. Lamont's apprehension on 10th September, 19th September, and again on 22nd December, 1898, was employed by the Procurator-Fiscal, on whose petition he granted the said warrants, to draw up medical reports on the case, and that two medical reports by Dr. Mackenzie, dated respectively 23rd September and 24th October, figure in the list of Crown productions in the case; whether Dr. Mackenzie has been paid, or has been promised, any fee for these reports; and, if so, how much; and, whether, when the police called on Dr. Lamont's mother on 8th December, and stated that they had instructions to re-arrest him, any warrant had been issued for his re-arrest; and, if so, what was the reason for the issue of the warrant for his re-arrest granted by Dr. Mackenzie on 22nd December.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: As regards Paragraph 1, I have already told the honourable Member that the instructions given by the Procurator-Fiscal were only to apprehend Dr. Lamont if he left the island; and as the Police did not know that he was leaving on the 15th there was no need to execute the warrant. As regards Paragraph 2, the Glasgow Police had no warrant in their possession, but the fact of the existence of a warrant had been communicated to them by telegraph from the Chief Constable at Inverness. As regards Paragraph 3 I have made inquiry, and find that Sergeant Philip had, in conversation with Dr. Lamont, been given by him Mrs. Lamont's address in Glasgow, and this address Philip communicated by telegram, on the 17th of September, to the Chief Constable at Inverness. The information in the fourth paragraph is correct. Fees will of course be paid in the ordinary way, and on the ordinary scale allowed by Exchequer. As regards the fifth paragraph, every

petition with fresh charges contains a warrant to commit in ordinary form. Fresh charges were made on 21st September, 25th October and 22nd December, but no fresh arrest was made because Crown Counsel, to whom the case had by this time been reported, ordered that Dr. Lamont should not be re-arrested, his agent undertaking to produce him for declaration.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: What is the amount of the fees paid to Dr. Mackenzie?

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY:** The fees vary from one guinea to three guineas, according to what he has done.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: Seeing that neither Dr. Lamont nor his agent have seen the warrant, will the right honourable Gentleman have any objection to its being shown to them?

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY:** I have seen it; it is absolutely in the ordinary form.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: Can Dr. Lamont's agent see it?

[No reply.]

LAMBOURNE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, whether he is aware that it has been the custom to take all the children at the national school at Lambourne, in Berkshire, over six years of age, on saints' days, to celebrations of the Holy Communion at which no one communicates but the minister; and that during Lent the children went to church every Wednesday and Friday from 11.40 to 12; whether this was an infringement of the conscience clause, as religious instruction was not on the time table at that time and secular instruction did not begin till 10; whether he is aware that for some months the curate has taken a class in algebra during the time set down on the time table for religious instruction, this having been done three times a week; whether the aid grant has been used this year for the purpose specified on the conditions under which it was granted; whether the balance sheet of

the school accounts was published last year, in accordance with the Government requirements; and, whether the balance sheet supplied to the Education Department last year was correct, or whether one of the instalments of the fee grant was omitted.

SIR J. GORST: I have no information on the facts alleged in the first three paragraphs. The practice of any religious observance, or the giving of religious instruction, at any time not inserted in a time-table approved by the Education Department, would be an infringement of Section 7 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870; the Department have not yet received the accounts for the school year just ended, and therefore cannot say how the Aid Grant has been spent; they have no reason to think that the previous year's balance sheet was not duly published, or that it was incorrect; the fee-grant was correctly entered.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH: Will the right honourable Gentleman make inquiries as to the truth of these allegations?

SIR J. GORST: I should like to explain that the Education Department have nothing to do with the kind of religious instruction given in schools. All they can see to is that religious instruction is given according to the time tables, and that those parents who object to the religious instruction given should have the opportunity of withdrawing their children.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH: Is it not part of the duty of the Education Department to ascertain whether children are marched to church during hours set apart for ordinary secular education?

SIR J. GORST: If the children are taken to a religious service during hours which are devoted to secular instruction that would be an infringement of the Education Act, and that the Department would take notice of.

IRISH NATIONAL ASSISTANT TEACHERS.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the Commissioners of National Education on any occasion have asked to have provision

made for paying assistant teachers in Irish National Schools salaries corresponding to their classification; and, if so, what has been the result of such application.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I have nothing to add to my reply to the question which the honourable Member addressed to me on this subject on the 20th February last.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN FRUIT PRESERVING FACTORIES.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his attention has been called to the statements quoted by the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for 1897 as to the excessive hours of work exacted of young persons in fruit preserving, especially to the passage "Complaints reach me of work continued by girls of 13 and upwards from 6 a.m. until midnight, and this not only on five but on six days in the week"; and, whether he will consider the expediency of removing the exemption of this particular trade from the operation of the Act of 1895.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have for some time been fully informed of the long hours worked in the fruit-preserving industry. As I stated in answer to a very similar question a few days ago, I consider that legislation in this matter is desirable.

LABOUR IN LAUNDRIES.

MR. W. F. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercrombie): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he purposes to bring in a Bill to amend the Factory Acts; and, if so, whether it will deal with laundries, or with what class or classes of labour?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have a Bill to amend certain points in the Factory Acts ready for introduction if opportunity serves, and the law affecting laundries is one of the matters with which I should like to deal. But I am unable, at present, to say how much it may be found desirable to include in the Bill.

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork Co., N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he

will cause further inquiry to be made into the alleged refusal by Mr. Foott, J.P., to sign, in his capacity as magistrate, forms of declaration of secrecy in connection with the recent county council election for Cork: whether he is aware that, on Monday 3rd April, on two occasions, Mr. Foott positively refused to sign declarations presented to him, in the presence of his steward, Mr. Charles Coleman, by Mr. Edward Buckley, agent for Mr. Thomas Barnes, a candidate, though later on the same day Mr. Foott signed a declaration for Mr. William Welsh, agent for Mr. Newman, another candidate; if the returning officer to whom Mr. Foott is said to have referred Mr. Buckley resides at Skibbereen, 80 miles distant, a fact well known to Mr. Foott; and whether the magistrate acted within his right in refusing to perform this duty.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The magistrate refused to sign the form of declaration referred to under an erroneous impression, due to his imperfect understanding of the document, that the declaration was not in proper form, and not from any desire to evade the discharge of his duty, or for the purpose of causing inconvenience to any of the parties interested. Under these circumstances he cannot be held to have violated his duty. When Mr. Newman's election agent asked him to sign a similar form it was fully explained that it was one that should be signed by him. The erroneous impression which he had at first formed was thus removed, and he affixed his signature to the form for Mr. Newman's agent.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM: Will any action be taken by the Lord Chancellor to see that this magistrate in future performs his duty without fear or favour?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: It was not a question of fear or favour. The magistrate, as I have explained, did not understand the nature of the document submitted to him. It may have been stupidity on his part, but that is the fact.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM: How was it that a few hours after his refusal to sign, he found himself able to sign a similar document for another candidate?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I have explained that it was fully explained to him by Mr. Newman's agent that the document was one he ought to sign.

EXPENDITURE ON CATTLE DISEASE.

MR. J. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, what was the total amount received from the Parliamentary Grant and the Local Taxation Account respectively, from 1894-5 to 1898-9 inclusive, to meet expenditure in respect of cattle pleuro pneumonia, foot-and-mouth disease, and swine fever; and, what was the net expenditure incurred during the same period on pleuro-pneumonia, foot-and-mouth disease, and swine fever respectively.

*MR. LONG: The total receipts from Parliamentary Grants and the Local Taxation Accounts towards the suppression of pleuro-pneumonia, foot-and-mouth disease and swine fever in Great Britain during the five years, 1894-5 to 1898-9, inclusive, amounted in the aggregate to £188,400 and £510,000 respectively. The net expenditure incurred during the same period of five years was £20,500 for pleuro-pneumonia, £1,100 for foot-and-mouth disease, and £724,000 for swine fever.

TELEGRAPHIC WITHDRAWALS FROM THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state the number of withdrawals by telegraph from the Post Office Savings Bank for the year 1898, and the average cost to the depositor of each such withdrawal; and, will he also state the number of telegraph notices of withdrawal for payment on the following day, and the average cost to the depositor of each such telegraph notice.

A JUNIOR LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. ANSTRUTHER, St. Andrews University, for Mr. HANBURY): The number of withdrawals by telegraph from the Post Office Savings Bank during the year 1898 was 141,783, and the average cost to the depositor of each such withdrawal was about 1s. 3d. The number of telegraph notices of withdrawal for payment on the following day was 10,563, and the average cost to the depositor of each such telegraph notice was about 9d.

INVER WATER SUPPLY.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, whether the Secretary for Scotland is aware that the County and

Chief District Sanitary Inspector for Ross and Cromarty states, on page 8 of his Report for the year 1898, that the water supply of Inver village, in the parish of Tain, is unsatisfactory; and, will he say what steps it is proposed to take with a view to provide the village with pure water.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Local Government Board that the annual report of the County Sanitary Inspector has only just been received by them; and that the Board, in accordance with their usual procedure, are in communication with the local authority of the Easter Ross district of the county regarding the water supply of Inver village.

RAILWAY EXTENSION IN INDIA.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, what is the estimated total amount proposed to be contributed towards railway extension by the independent States of India during the current year, and for the three years covered by the Indian Government's programme; what is the aggregate mileage that will be constructed from the funds of these States apart from the proposed line in Kashmir; can the names of the States thus contributing to railway extension be given, with the amounts which each will contribute; and, on what terms as to interest, acquisition of lands, and jurisdiction are these railway advances made by these States, and are the princes and chiefs treated with as free agents in these transactions.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The estimated total amount to be contributed towards railway extension by native States during the next three years is 5,800,000 tens of rupees, including about 1,500,000 for the proposed Kashmir line; and the aggregate mileage under construction or projected as a charge upon these funds is 1,087 miles, or, excluding the 175 miles of the Kashmir railway, 912 miles. Roughly speaking, about a third of each of these totals may be allotted to each of the next three years. The names of the contributing States, besides Kashmir, are Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Jeypur, Gwalior, Mysore, Oodeypur, Bikanir, Rewa, and Rajpipla. The terms and conditions vary in each case.

PENALTIES ON NAVAL CONTRACTS.

MR. J. HERBERT LEWIS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, in how many cases were penalties incurred for delay in the fulfilment of Naval contracts; what was the total amount of such penalties during the year ending the 31st March, 1899; in how many cases were penalties enforced; and what was the total amount of such penalties.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. W. E. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): During the year ended 31st March last potential penalties were incurred in 115 cases by contractors for shipbuilding, armaments, gun mountings, and yard machinery, to the amount of £223,989, and penalties to the extent of £65 were enforced in two cases.

INDIAN SUGAR DUTY PAPERS.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India when the Indian Sugar Duty Papers, which were stated a month ago to be in the printer's hands, will be distributed among Members.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I am informed that copies will reach the House this evening.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN: Is the noble Lord in a position to redeem the promise made before Easter that we shall have a day for the discussion of the Papers?

LORD G. HAMILTON: I made no promise.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN: The First Lord of the Treasury did.

LORD G. HAMILTON: What I told my honourable friend was that he had better ask the First Lord of the Treasury. I can assure my honourable friend that I should be delighted to discuss the question.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN: Will the noble Lord communicate with the First Lord? He has much more influence with him than I have.

MINISTERS OF RELIGION AND THE LAND TAX.

SIR POWLETT MILBANK (Radnor): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether property held by

trustees for the benefit of a minister of religion, whose income from all sources is under £160 per annum, is entitled to relief for Land Tax under the Finance Act of last year.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): The answer is in the affirmative, if the minister is, by the instrument under which the lands are held, constituted the owner in possession of the rents and profits; otherwise the property would not be entitled to relief. If the honourable Member will give the particulars of any case in which he is interested I will cause inquiry to be made as to the minister's claim to relief.

IRISH MAIL SERVICE.

MR. M'GHEE (Louth, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he will now state the difference in time in the departure of the Irish mail train from Euston Station to Holyhead from what it formerly was, when the present time for posting letters from the House of Commons for Ireland was first fixed; and if he will explain why Members of Parliament derive no advantage by the later departure of the Irish mail train from London; and, if he will make inquiry with the view of extending the time for posting letters to Ireland from the House of Commons.

MR. ANSTRUTHER (for Mr. HANBURY): The difference in time in the Irish mail train from Euston Station to Holyhead is 25 minutes, that is, the departure is at 8.45 p.m. instead of 8.20 p.m., but the difference for mail purposes is only 15 minutes, as the Scotch mail train at 8.30 p.m. formerly carried the Irish mails as far as Crewe, where it overtook the Irish mail train. The reason why the time of posting Irish letters at the House of Commons has not been extended was explained to the honourable Member in reply to a former Question on the 9th March.

LURGAN POST OFFICE.

MR. M'GHEE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, with reference to

the proposed erection of a new post office at Lurgan, whether the site has yet been secured ; and, if so, in what part of the town, and at what price ; if he can state when the work will be commenced, and within what time it is expected to be finished ; and, whether he can give any estimate of the probable cost of the building.

MR. ANSTRUTHER (for Mr. HANBURY): Neither of the two sites which have been under consideration has yet been secured for a new post office at Lurgan. Owing largely to the high prices asked for the sites, the estimated cost for site and building under either of the two schemes is so much in excess of the amount which the business would warrant that it has been necessary to consider very carefully how the expense can be reduced, and this question is still under examination.

IMPERIAL EXPENDITURE.

MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the amount of the estimated payments to the Local Taxation Accounts from Imperial Revenue for the year ending 31st March 1900 ; what is the estimated expenditure from Surplus Revenue, 1895-6, for naval works for the year ending 31st March 1900 ; what is the estimated expenditure from Surplus Revenue, 1897-8, for Military Works for the year ending 31st March 1900 ; what is the estimated expenditure from borrowed money during the year ending 31st March 1900 under The Barracks Act, 1890, Naval Works Acts, Uganda Railway Act, 1896, and Telegraph Acts, 1892, &c. ; and, what is the estimated gross total of Imperial Expenditure for 1899-1900.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: For the year ending 31st March, 1900, the Estimated Payments from Imperial Revenue to Local Taxation Accounts are	£ 9,393,000
The Estimated Expenditure from Surplus Revenue, 1895-96, for Naval Works is	768,000
The Estimated Expenditure from Surplus Revenue, 1896-97, for Military Works is	1,100,000

The Estimated Expenditure from borrowed money is :	£
Under the Barracks Act, 1890,	195,000
Under the Naval Works Acts	982,000
Under the Uganda Railway Act, 1896	900,000
Under the Telegraph Acts, 1892, &c.	500,000
	<hr/> 2,577,000
These figures added to the Estimated Expenditure, as shown in my Financial Statement, of	110,927,000
make a total of	<hr/> £124,765,000

MR. J. A. PEASE: Does this include anything for Supplementary Votes ?

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: It is quite impossible to make an estimate of the Supplementary Votes until they are agreed to, but perhaps I may say that the estimates of the expenditure on naval and military works are always fallacious. No one can tell how much will be expended.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN SCOTLAND.

*MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, if he can explain how that in the Return just issued "Schools (Scotland) Number of Scholars, &c.," there is given in the summary as the actual average attendance for the year ended on 30th September 1897, 609,061, whilst in Return [C. 9,263] the average number of scholars in attendance on the Annual Grant List is given as 611,205, and for the inspected schools as 605,776 for the same year ; similarly, as regards the number of scholars on the Register, 721,588, as compared with 724,268 on the Annual Grant List, and 717,747 on the registers of inspected schools ; and, whether any and what number of scholars are included in the 609,061 and 721,588 respectively as being the number of children for whom additional attendances were allowed in respect of Article 23 (b) 1 (a) and Article 23 (b) 1 (b) of the Code.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The honourable Member's figures are correct, except that he has given certain figures for 1897 which properly belong to 1898. It is true that the slight discrepancy pointed out exists, but it is unavoidable. The Department is unable to give the particulars in the first-named Return with respect to all Schools on the Annual Grant List, because some of these schools had not been on the List for a year, and the statistics were therefore incomplete. On the other hand, in order to make the Return more accurate, it did not follow strictly the numbers of inspected schools. Had it done so, it would have included schools inspected twice, and omitted others paid without inspection. The totals given in the last paragraph include the children for whom additional attendances were allowed, but do not include the attendances so allowed.

ARREST OF A HULL TRAWLER BY A DANISH GUNBOAT.

MR. DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he is aware that the steam trawler "Fulmar," of Hull, was arrested by a Danish gunboat on the 9th of April last while fishing along with the steam trawler "Euphrates," of Hull, off Reckcanaes, Iceland, Reckcanaes bearing S.S.E. about 10 miles distant; whether he has received a sworn statement from the captain of the "Euphrates" that the "Fulmar" was between five and six miles from the nearest point of land when arrested; that the captain was transferred to the gunboat; that he asked the commander to take the bearings, urging that he was between five and six miles from the land, but was told to mind his own business and await his trial; that on arriving at Reckevek a court was formed on board the gunboat, consisting of the sheriff, the consul, the commander, and two officers; that the captain strongly denied having broken any law, and when he appealed to the English consul was told that the commander and his mates must be upheld; that he further states that he was coerced to sign certain papers, being told by the English consul that he must sign or not be able to get his vessel away; that he was fined £56, his gear and 200 fathoms of steel warp was removed, and the whole of his cargo, valued at £500, was confiscated; that the loss to the owners is estimated at £800; whether,

seeing that Captain Rickell has been master of vessels for his present employers for 28 years, and never before been charged for any offence against the law, he can state what course Her Majesty's Government intend to take in this case; and, what action they propose to prevent the destruction of British fishing interests in these waters.

*MR. BRODRICK: Her Majesty's Government have brought this and other cases to the notice of the Danish Government and the whole of the facts will be carefully investigated. We have sent a ship to the spot for the purpose.

PRISON RULES.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether, under The Prisons Act 1898, and the Rules made thereunder, persons committed for non-payment of arrears due under orders in bastardy, or arrears made under The Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Act, 1895, are entitled to be treated as debtors and not placed in association with criminal prisoners; whether, under Section 54 of The Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879, persons imprisoned for non-payment of such sums have not been hitherto treated as ordinary criminal prisoners, and compelled to wear the prison dress; and, whether, if persons so imprisoned are not now entitled to be treated as debtors, the court may give directions as to the division in which they shall be placed under Section 6, Sub-section (2), which relates only to persons convicted by any court of an offence, and sentenced to imprisonment without hard labour.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The answer to the first two paragraphs is in the affirmative, and consequently no answer is required to the third.

MR. NUSSEY: Were persons thus imprisoned treated as ordinary criminals and made to wear prison clothes?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Yes.

MR. NUSSEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether, by Section 9 of The Prisons Act, 1898, as to the release of a prisoner on payment of a portion of a fine, and the rules made thereunder, any provision is

made, similar to that contained in Section 21, Sub-section (4) of The Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879, in respect to payments prior to committal, that the term of imprisonment for non-payment of an unsatisfied balance, shall not exceed the maximum term of imprisonment to which the prisoner might have been subjected if the unsatisfied balance had constituted the original amount adjudged to be paid by the conviction, *e.g.*, if the defendant, ordered to pay a fine of £5 and 5s. for costs, or in default two months' imprisonment, pay to the governor of the prison 5s., will the term of imprisonment be reduced by three days or by one month; and, whether the provisions of Section 9 extend to the case of a person imprisoned for non-payment of any sum adjudged to be paid by an order (as distinguished from a conviction) either when the sum is a civil debt or otherwise, and whether the sum adjudged be for penalties under Section 34 of The Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879, or otherwise for costs only.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The answer to both paragraphs is in the negative. Reduction of imprisonment is earned by payment after committal of a proportionate part of the sum for which the prisoner stands committed, whether or not the committal has been altered under the provisions of the Summary Jurisdiction Act referred to.

THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

MR. BUCHANAN (East Aberdeenshire): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, what are the sums that have been voted by Parliament in successive years to make good the deficiencies on the Post Office Savings Bank account; and, what would be the estimated annual saving to the State if the interest on deposits in Post Office Savings Banks were reduced from two and a half per cent. to two per cent.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: Three sums have been voted by Parliament to make good deficiencies on the Post Office Savings Bank account, namely:

	£
In the year 1896-7	3,791
In the year 1897-8	11,702
In the year 1898-9	9,674

The reduction of interest on deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks from two and a-half to two per cent. would of course

be equivalent to a reduction of the amount of interest by one-fifth. The estimated amount of interest for the year 1898 at two and a-half per cent. was, in round figures, £2,841,000; at two per cent. the amount would be £2,273,000, a saving in respect of that year of £568,000.

THE TRANSVAAL.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he is aware that the correspondence with the South African Republic as to the dynamite concession has been published in the Transvaal; and, whether he can state when it will be in the hands of Members.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The answer to the first question is in the affirmative. As to the second, I have to say that the correspondence will be laid on the Table at once.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he will state which Article of the London Convention with the South African Republic is contravened by the dynamite concession.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Article 14.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): Is the right honourable Gentleman aware of the fact that the concession was granted two years before the Convention?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Perhaps the honourable Member will put the question down on the Paper.

FRANCE AND NEWFOUNDLAND.

MR. J. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he will, at an early date, make a statement to Parliament as to the present position of questions relating to the French shore of the Newfoundland coast; whether his attention has been drawn to the unsatisfactory conditions imposed by existing Treaties between this country and France upon the fishing and other industries of our fellow subjects in that colony, and to the consequent serious injury caused to their trading operations;

and, whether, in view of the disposition now shown by the French authorities to reconsider the bearing of these Treaties, he will state whether the Government are taking steps to secure the readjustment of our relations with France in respect to these Treaties.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not in a position to make any statement respecting the question of the French Treaty rights affecting part of the shore of Newfoundland, except that Her Majesty's Government have now under their consideration the report of a Commission appointed last autumn to inquire into the matter.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Will that be laid on the Table?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot say at present.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF JAMAICA.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether it was by direction of the Colonial Office, or with its assent, that the Governor of Jamaica recently created additional nominated members of the Legislative Council, so as to outnumber the elected members; and, whether, in consequence of the opposition in the Colony, these appointments were subsequently withdrawn.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I instructed the Governor to take whatever steps were necessary to secure the First Reading of a new Tariff Bill. To carry out those instructions he appointed additional members of Council, and I approved his action in doing so. He subsequently informed me that on the distinct assurance of the elected members of Council that they would co-operate in passing a tariff law, he had allowed the additional members to resign.

SAFE CUSTODY OF ARCHIVES AND RECORDS.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether the attention of Her Majesty's Government has been called to the insufficient provision now made by law for the custody and protection of local archives and records, ecclesiastical and civil, and to the consequent injury or loss

of many documents of public interest and permanent value, as well as to the difficulty of ascertaining in what keeping many such archives or records are, so that they may be consulted for historical or administrative purposes and, whether the Government will advise Her Majesty to take steps, by the appointment of a Royal Commission or otherwise, to have a full inquiry made into the present condition of such archives and records and into the best means of making a public provision for their safe keeping, and generally of rendering them more accessible and available for study than they are at present.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The Government will gladly consider the subject of the Question, and inquiry shall be made as suggested in the last paragraph. There seems to be a great deal to be said for the proposal, but, from such consideration as I have been able to give to the matter, I have been forced to the conclusion that the responsibility for preserving and indexing this voluminous mass of materials could never be undertaken by a Government Department.

DIPLOMACY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, seeing that Her Majesty carries on her diplomatic intercourse with all other Republics through the Foreign Office, he will explain why a difference is made in the cases of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State; and, whether, on various occasions, these States have protested against the present system, and have expressed a desire to be in communication with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that no protests have been made against the present system during the last twenty years, and Her Majesty's Government see no reason to change that system, which is founded on considerations of convenience and public policy.

WORKMEN'S TRAINS FROM FENCHURCH STREET.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether he is now able to announce the

decision of Sir Francis Marindin, in the case of the London Reform Union against the London Tilbury, and Southend Railway Company, for an improved service of workmen's trains at a later hour and at lower fares between Barking and intermediate stations and Fenchurch Street.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (for Mr. RITCHIE): Sir F. Marindin recommends that the Company should be required to run three additional workmen's trains from Barking, starting one at about 6.30 and two between seven and eight o'clock, at the present fares for workmen; the local fare between Barking and Bromley to be reduced. The Board of Trade will communicate with the Company as to the exact times at which the trains should be run.

VACCINATION OF INFANTS.

MR. CHANNING: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether he has received any communications, and, if so, to what effect, from the authorities of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, the St. Pancras Workhouse, and other similar institutions to whom he has made representations, that the vaccination of infants within a few days of birth is undesirable and should be discontinued.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.): The Local Government Board has been in further communication with the authorities of Queen Charlotte's Hospital with the view of giving effect to the views already expressed by the Board, but it has not been deemed necessary to make any further communication to the other authorities referred to.

HONG-KONG CABLE AGREEMENTS.

MR. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether an Agreement was made on the 28th October 1893, between the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the one part and the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, Limited, of the other part, for laying a second submarine telegraph cable between Singapore and Hong-kong; whether this agreement secured the Company against competition and placed them in possession of a preferential right to any future contract or concession for laying further cables between

Singapore and Hong-kong for a term of 25 years; and, whether such Agreement was ever presented to Parliament; if not, will he state the reason why?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: An Agreement was made on the 26th of October 1893, between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, for the laying and maintaining for 25 years, at their own cost, by the Company, of a second submarine telegraph cable connecting Singapore, Labuan, and Hong-kong. 2. The Agreement contains the following Article:—

"Article 4. In consideration of the engagements entered into by the Company in this Agreement, and of the strict fulfilment thereof, Her Majesty's Government undertakes to secure the Company against competition to the extent following, that is to say:—

Her Majesty's Government will not during the term of this Agreement lay, nor grant, nor permit to be granted, any concession or authority for laying any new submarine cables connected with Hong-kong, Singapore, or Labuan (whether in competition with the cables of the Company or not) unless such new cables should, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be found necessary in the public interest of Great Britain, Hong-kong, the Straits Settlements or Labuan, or in the general interests of international telegraphic communication. Provided always, that if it shall be decided that new cables are to be laid the Company shall, all things being equal, have the preferential right to the contract or concession for laying the same. Provided that this Article shall not prevent the Great Northern Company from repairing, renewing, or replacing any submarine cable connected with Hong-kong, and shall not prejudice or affect the existing rights of that Company.

3. The Agreement was not presented to Parliament, as it imposed no charge on the public revenue.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I wish to ask the usual question as to the nature of the Supply to be taken on Friday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I quite recognise that this is a usual question for Monday, but I am rather in a difficulty, owing to the absence, through indisposition, of the Secretary to the Treasury. Perhaps I may be allowed to defer my answer till to-morrow.

MR. J. LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): What about the Finance Bill?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Thursday.

REPORTED CRISIS IN THE
TRANSSVAAL.

CAPTAIN BETHELL (York, W. R., Holderness): May I ask the right honourable Gentleman the Colonial Secretary, whether he has any information of the existence of a so-called crisis in the Transvaal, as there has been a somewhat alarming crop of rumours attributing all sorts of designs to him in some cases.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, sir; I do not think it necessary to take notice of all the rumours which are published with regard to the Transvaal.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL
INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) BILL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I beg to ask leave to introduce a Bill "for establishing a Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction in Ireland, and for other purposes connected therewith." It will be within the recollection of the House that I introduced a Bill two years ago for establishing a Department and Board of Agriculture and Industries in Ireland. The Bill was subsequently withdrawn, upon the announcement of our intention to deal in the first place with the larger question of Local Government. But the policy was not abandoned, only postponed. The present Bill covers, broadly speaking, the same ground, and something more. Its object is threefold: First, to concentrate in one Department, which shall be directly responsible to Parliament, through the Chief Secretary as its President, and a new Parliamentary officer as its Vice-President, the functions already performed by Government in connection with agriculture in Ireland, but at present distributed among five or six different Departments; secondly, to provide machinery and funds for carrying out in other parts of Ireland a work analogous to that carried out in the congested districts by the Congested Districts Board; thirdly (and in this respect the Bill breaks fresh ground), to provide machinery and funds for promoting technical instruction in relation to industries of an urban character in Ireland. In asking leave to introduce the measure,

it will hardly be necessary at this stage to offer any vindication of its general policy. I will content myself with a concise statement of its principal provisions, especially of those in which it differs from our former proposals. So far as concerns the transfer to the new Department of existing Governmental functions, the Bill closely resembles its predecessor. But to the powers and duties formerly proposed to be transferred are added those of the fishery inspectors, and also most of the functions exercised in Ireland by the Science and Art Department. As regards the machinery and funds for carrying out the work of aiding and developing agriculture and other industries on the lines of the Congested Districts Board, considerable changes have been introduced, while the corresponding provisions with respect to technical instruction are of course new. The executive and administrative authority for these purposes will be the Department, and there will be placed at its disposal, in addition to the moneys annually voted by Parliament for the discharge of its other functions, a total income of between £160,000 and £170,000 a year for aiding and encouraging agriculture and other industries and technical instruction. The chief sources from which this income will be derived are as follows:—In the first place, there will be transferred to the Department the annual sum of £78,000 now paid to the Commissioners of National Education out of the beer and spirit money. This is a contribution from the Imperial Exchequer, inasmuch as the loss to the Commissioners of Education will, of course, have to be made good out of voted money. In the second place, the Department is to be made the residuary legatee of the Irish Church Fund. The amount which will remain available from this source, after the other claims on the fund have been met, cannot be calculated with absolute certainty or exactness; but from the year 1901 I estimate it at an annual sum of £70,000, or thereabouts, for many years to come, and it is quite possible that the fund may be able to afford this sum in perpetuity. To the £78,000 from the beer and spirit money, and the £70,000 from the Church Fund, there is further added £12,000 a year, representing the savings effected under the Judicature Act of 1897, and £6,000 a year out of voted money, most of which latter sum represents the present cost to the State of the

Albert Agricultural Department at Glasnevin and the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute. This makes in all an income of £166,000 a year. There will also be available for the purposes of the Department a capital sum made up chiefly from the residue of moneys paid to the Local Taxation Account, under the Estate Duty Act of 1896, the amount of which cannot be determined at present, although I should hope it would not be less than £100,000. The executive and administrative authority in connection with the application of these moneys is, as I have said, vested in the Department. The Department may, however, use any public body, as defined in the Bill (and the definition is a wide one) as its instrument or agent for this purpose. Moreover, it is not to be inferred that it will have a free hand in the spending of the money. In the first place, a definite sum of £55,000, or about one-third of the whole, is allocated to technical instruction of an urban character, and the portion of this allotted to county boroughs will be administered by the local authorities themselves, subject to the approval of the Department; £10,000 a year is allocated to purposes connected with the sea fisheries, and the remainder to agriculture and other industries of a rural character. Definite provision is also made in the Bill for capital expenditure on the Royal Veterinary College and the Munster Dairy School. In the second place, the Department is to be assisted in the application of the funds at its disposal, and its powers considerably limited, by having associated with it for this purpose an Agricultural Board and a Board of Technical Instruction. Only a minority of the members of these boards will be nominated by Government. The majority will be appointed, in the case of the Agricultural Board, by a body called in the Bill a Council of Agriculture, which itself will consist, as to two-thirds of its members, of representatives chosen by the different county councils, and in the case of the Board of Technical Instruction of representatives of the councils of county boroughs and of various public bodies. As the names imply, the two boards are respectively concerned with the two branches into which the work of the Department is divided, namely, agriculture and technical instruction in towns. Their functions are primarily of an advisory character, but they will occupy a position

of much influence and power, inasmuch as the concurrence of one or other of them is required in almost all cases for any expenditure by the Department of the money placed at its disposal. Rating powers to a limited amount are given to county councils and urban district councils, and as a general rule no money is to be spent by the Department on any local object without some contribution from local sources. No attempt is made in the Bill to interfere with the system of national elementary education in Ireland, or with that of intermediate education; but in order to secure greater unity of action between the different educational authorities in Ireland, it is proposed that the Vice-President of the Department should be an *ex officio* member of the Board of National Education and of the Intermediate Education Board, and that each of these bodies should have a representative on the Board of Technical Instruction. I think it will be found that this short statement comprises the principal provisions of the measure, which I now commend to the favourable judgment of the House. Any further explanation or defence of those provisions I must leave to a future stage. I beg leave to move the First Reading of the Bill.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said the introduction of an important Bill like this at the commencement of public business, under the ten minutes rule was a glaring instance of the abuse of that rule by Ministers. On the 12th April, 1897, a Bill on a similar subject was introduced by the right honourable Gentleman, but he did not then take refuge under the ten minutes rule. He brought it in in the usual manner for Bills of importance, when Members are afforded an opportunity of seeking information and of discussing details. It would appear that Ministers, by the operation of the ten minutes rule, were determined gradually to abolish one stage of all their measures, or that in the mind of the right honourable Gentleman this subject had receded in importance since 1897. It was perfectly idle under the ten minutes rule for anyone to attempt to follow the Chief Secretary in his gallop through a complicated measure which dealt with an extremely important subject. In regard to finance, he had followed very closely what the right honourable Gentleman had said, and he regretted to say that nothing could

for triennial elections. That was a misapprehension. So far as he had been able to ascertain, and so far as the enacting section went, it provided that a bare majority might carry a resolution. He did not see why a different rule should apply to the new boroughs from the Boards of Guardians.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 3, after the word "present," to insert the words "and voting."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words 'and voting' be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I recollect the discussions which took place in 1894. I cannot conceive that the intention of the framers of the Act was that a very small number of persons out of the total number present should carry this important change. If the honourable Gentleman's Amendment were carried, to take an extreme case, supposing the whole council were present at a meeting and supposing that only 6 out of the 70 members chose to vote, then four persons present would carry this great change. That seems to me to be rather a comical result.

MR. PICKERSGILL could see nothing comic about it. The gist of the Amendment was that due notice was given, and if those present did not choose to vote, the purpose of the provision was obtained without them.

MR. LOUGH thought that the words were harmless. Suppose there was a quorum present, the decision should be taken by those who actually voted.

*CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, South) hoped the Government would not adopt this insidious Amendment. If the suggestion of the honourable Member was adopted, it would have the effect of making it possible to carry a resolution in favour of triennial elections by a less majority than was necessary in the case of resolutions on other points.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought it was only common sense that a resolution should be carried by a majority of two-thirds of those voting on the resolution.

Mr. Pickersgill.

It would be very difficult to decide whether at a particular moment there were two-thirds of the members present or not, whereas the matter could be decided at once if the votes were actually recorded. He could not see anything insidious in the proposal.

MR. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) held that, under all circumstances where a vote could be legally taken, the question ought to be decided by two-thirds majority of those voting. He did not know of any case where a question like this had to be decided by a majority of those present, whether they voted or not. From a long experience on local bodies he could say it was very difficult to declare how many persons were present when a given vote was taken. The only determining fact was the numbers taken down by the tellers. He did not see why this Bill should differ from the Act of 1894, which stated that a resolution should be carried by a two-thirds majority of those voting.

MR. COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin) said that, in the House, when a Division was taken everyone present must vote. He did not think they ought to pay much respect to those members of council, who, being present when a question was put, did not take the trouble to vote.

MR. DILLON said that the only people whose rights the honourable Member for St. Pancras sought to safeguard were those who, being present in the room, declined to vote. How could they consider the matter under discussion of great importance if they refused to vote? It seemed to him that there was substance in the Amendment, and it might prevent the greatest possible difficulties and disputes.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) asked the Solicitor-General whether the word "present," used in this sense, meant those who were present at the voting, whether they voted or not. He had always understood that the word present meant those who were "present" and voted.

SIR R. FINLAY said that the word "present" meant "present"; that was to say, the Chairman would have to ascertain whether two-thirds of those present were voting, and he would count them.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) BILL.

"For establishing a Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction in Ireland, and for other purposes connected therewith," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 180.]

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 2 :—

Amendment again proposed, after the words last added, to add to the words—

"(b) The Local Government Board may, on request made by a borough council in pursuance of a resolution of the council passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting of the council duly convened for the purpose, make an order directing that the whole of the councillors shall retire together on the ordinary day of election in every third year, and may on like request rescind any such order."—(*Captain Jessel.*)

Question again proposed—

"That those words be there added."

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) moved as an Amendment to the Amendment to leave out on the first line "may," and insert "shall." He said that the words of the Amendment as it stood hardly fulfilled the expectation formed by the promise of the First Lord of the Treasury. He knew that in an Act of Parliament "may" ought to mean "shall," but he did not think it was so in this case. The objection to keeping in the word "may" was that the Local Government Board would decide whether the election should be annual or triennial. It was clearly understood that the councils should themselves decide the point.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 1, to leave out the word "may," and insert the word "shall."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed—

"That the word 'may' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said that the word "may" occurred in the Act of

1894, which gave the county council power at the request of the local authorities to make an order. That was a precedent, and in such cases it was much better to keep the word "may." It was conceivable that there might be instances in which it would be very wrong and in which an order should not be made, and the Local Government Board should not be liable to a mandamus.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): Can the right honourable Gentleman suggest an instance in which the Local Government Board would be justified in refusing to make an order?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I admit that such cases are not likely to occur often. But, suppose that the majority of a borough council have declared for triennial elections, merely for the sake of prolonging their own tenure of office!

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: It is a case which is quite impossible to happen, if they were to adopt the triennial system on its merits.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I thought I had done a great deal to meet the wishes of both sides of the House, in adopting the scheme of the Act of 1894. The Local Government Board will never interfere unless under circumstances which it may be difficult to foresee; and certainly what they would do would not imply any limitation of the true liberty of the borough councils. I hope the honourable Member will not press the matter.

Question put and agreed to.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) moved as an Amendment to the Amendment to insert the words "and voting" after the word "present." In support of his Amendment he would use the same argument as the Solicitor-General had used in opposing the last Amendment. The right honourable and learned Gentleman said that the Government desired to follow the precedent of the 1894 Act. This Amendment followed the 1894 Act. As he understood, the First Lord of the Treasury said that the Local Government Act of 1894 provided that a two-thirds majority must be necessary in order to substitute annual

third of the council, and the resolution could be carried by two-thirds of the quorum. The new Amendment, under the guise of a concession, was to make it necessary that the resolution should be carried by a majority of the whole council.

MR. STUART said that the Tramways Act was worked by a majority of those who took over the tramways. If two-thirds of the council voted, a curious position might arise, inasmuch as a person by voting against the proposal might facilitate its being carried, but the object was perfectly clear. If two-thirds of those voting were to be the majority, he could understand the position, but to say the majority should be two-thirds of the entire Council was to try and find something which did not exist in any Act.

MR. MARKS (Tower Hamlets, St. George's) pointed out that in a council of seventy-two members, of which a majority was thirty-seven, it would be in the power of sixteen members, by absenting themselves from the meetings of the council, to prevent in perpetuity any resolution from being carried. He could not think that was the intention of the Government.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar) said this was proposed to be a concession, and all that the Committee was doing was proposing that something could be done by

a majority of the council which could be done without any enactment whatever. He could not see the object of this particular Amendment.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER (St Pancras, East) thought that as the matter stood there, must be thirty-seven members to vote for a proposal, so that if fifteen of the council stayed away the whole thing became void.

SIR H. H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury to follow the precedent he had made in making these concessions, and to follow the Clause which the then Government was compelled to insert in the Act of 1894. That Clause was perfectly just and fair, and its meaning was perfectly intelligible. The words were "provided that the County Council may, on a request made by resolution of an urban district council, passed by two-thirds of the members voting on the resolution." That seemed to him to afford all the precaution that was needed.

SIR BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) thought that there should be at least two-thirds of the council present to deal with any question which might arise. He was of opinion that the suggestion of the Government was the best solution which could be arrived at.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 209. Noes, 117.—(Division List No. 120.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Fredk. Gorell [(Hunts')
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Beresford, Lord Charles
Bethell, Commander
Bill, Charles

Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander A.
Burdett-Connors, W.
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)

Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Farrell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Mane)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue

Mr. Dillon.

Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Folkestone, Viscount
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hardy, Laurence
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Heath, James
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hornly, Sir William Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)

Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarle Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McIver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thomson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Pender, Sir James
 Percy, Earl
 Philippotts, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)

Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wallace, Robert (Perth)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Allen, W. (Newc. under Lyme)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Asher, Alexander
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
 Baker, Sir John
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clack.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Crombie, John William
 Daly, James
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.

Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Dunn, Sir William
 Ellis, John Edward
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Galdstone, Rt. Hon. Herb. J.
 Goldard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burton
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.
 Horniman, Frederick J.
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.

Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kinloch, Sir J. George Smyth
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumber.)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McArthur, William (Cornwall)
 McGhee, Richard
 McKenna, Reginald
 McLeod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hon. J. (Montrose)

Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Perks, Robert William
 Philippe, John Wynford
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton

Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorg. E.)
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips

Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woods, Samuel
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. James Stuart and Capt.
 Sinclair.

Words, as amended, added.

MR. TREVELYAN (York, W. R., Elland) proposed to add to the Clause:—

“Provided that any person possessing the necessary qualification for the election as a member of one of the metropolitan borough councils shall be qualified to be elected either as councillor, alderman, or mayor of any borough council within the administrative county of London.”

He said that he moved the Amendment, which received the support of a great many people outside the House, in the hope that the Government would accept it. The Bill as it stood would exclude many men who would make most desirable members of the new councils, and whose interests were or might have been largely concerned with the borough, who lived outside the boundaries of the borough. Another class of men was that class who had lived and spent the greater part of their lives in the borough, but who after having made their wealth would move to another part altogether, and thus disqualify themselves from acting as councillors in the district where they had spent their lives. Everybody agreed that it would be a very great loss if that class of men were disqualified. With regard to the other side of the Amendment, there were frequently men coming from the outside of the borough who possessed very great knowledge of the different districts, who under present circumstances would be disqualified as the Bill now stood which would be a very unfortunate thing for the borough. It was to include persons interested in the borough, whether they reside inside or outside the boundaries, that he moved his Amendment, and his object in this Amendment was to provide that they should be eligible for election as members of the councils.

Amendment proposed—

“After the words last added, to add the words, ‘Provided also that any person possessing the necessary qualification for election as a member of one of the metropolitan borough councils shall be qualified to be elected either as councillor, alderman, or mayor of any borough council within the administrative county of London.’—(Mr. Trevelyan.)

Question proposed—

“That those words be there added.”

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think there is something in what the honourable Member says and in the principle he advocates, but I think the Amendment carries that principle a great deal too far. The local element would, in my opinion, be deprived of its proper position if we adopted so sweeping a proposition as that now made. I shall be prepared, however, so far to meet the honourable Member's views as to suggest that, if the councils desire it, they may go outside their own district for aldermen. But that point will, perhaps, be better raised on an Amendment which stands lower down the upon the Paper in the name of the honourable Member for Chelsea.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said this was an Amendment which he sincerely hoped the Government would not accept, because the dignity and personnel of the council were at stake. It assumed that there were not enough men in the locality to form a council, and that therefore there was a power to elect from outside the borough. He believed that an Amendment had been carried which precluded aldermen being co-opted from outside the district. He regarded the Amendment as a direct insult to hundreds of men who had given the best years of their life to administrative work

in London, and therefore he trusted the First Lord of the Treasury would not accept it.

*MR. MARKS ventured to submit that the adoption of this Amendment in the Bill would have the effect of qualifying every resident in London to sit on any London borough council, and it would defeat one of the main objects of the Bill. When the Bill was introduced it was stated that one of the chief features was to give additional dignity to municipal life in London and attract to the service of the proposed municipal boroughs a class of men which had not been attracted previously to the service. It was admitted that there was great room for improvement in the service of parochial institutions, but the principal safeguard for the proper discharge of the duties of those institutions was surely to be found in responsibility to and dependence upon the consideration of the people among whom they lived of the men who sat on the borough councils. The welfare of each district should engage the attention of the best men resident in it. No one with any knowledge of local government could doubt that the proper discharge of local duties was best attained by those of intimate local knowledge. The proposed new boroughs would have power to levy rates amounting to two and a half millions a year—a considerably larger sum than either the County Council or the School Board—and power to spend their own funds, and those who had to vote upon the raising of the rates should be people who had to share the burden of the rates when levied. He thought that every alderman should be resident in the ward he represented. No doubt there would be some desire to turn a borough to political use, and it might be easy to have a sort of flying squadron to facilitate matters, but it would not add to municipal dignity if these boroughs were turned into miniature County Councils, and so into ante-chambers for the discussion of party politics and the promotion of partizan interests. If people were to be brought into a borough from east, west, north, and south, it might be taken for granted that they would be attracted not so much by local interest as by the wider political interests which they would desire to serve.

MR. J. SAMUEL (Stockton) desired to oppose the Amendment, and expressed

surprise that it was moved from the quarter whence it came. What right had a man to become councillor, alderman, and mayor, without having a rating qualification in the district he represented? So far as the provincial municipalities were concerned, the honourable Member showed that if a man was an occupier and lived within seven miles of a borough he was eligible to be mayor, alderman, or councillor, but if he lived beyond seven but within fifteen miles of the borough, Section 10 of the Municipal Corporations Act provided that to be qualified to be mayor, alderman, or councillor, he must be rated at £50 to the poor, if the town had four or more wards, but if it had four wards only he must be rated at £15 or possess real or personal estate to the value of £500. He protested against the Amendment, and thought it would be an insult to the new municipal boroughs in London if men from outside were allowed to vote away the ratepayers' money who had no share in the burden of the rates in those boroughs.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) suggested that the Amendment should not be pressed. There were many arguments against it. It would be possible under such an Amendment for any number of people to go from one district to another and sweep out municipal government altogether. The man living in the locality would not be able to give voice to the aspirations of the persons among whom he lived. He thought the fundamental principles of the Bill would be undermined if the Amendment was allowed to pass.

MR. STUART said he agreed with the First Lord of the Treasury on this subject.

MR. TREVELYAN said he had brought forward the Amendment because many outside the House shared his opinions on the subject. He was surprised that he had not received more support from his own side, because he thought it was one of the principles of democracy that the people should choose whom they wished, provided they got the best men. Under the circumstances, he was willing to withdraw the Amendment.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) asked, upon a point of order, whether, if all the Amendments were negatived, it would cut out all discussion on aldermen?

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea) moved to omit the words, "either as borough councillors" in order that the "aldermen" might be left for discussion. He was opposed to persons from outside the proposed municipal areas being elected as councillors. It was said that such a suggestion was an insult to the borough councillors, but in his opinion the insult was given by those who imputed such foolishness to the boroughs, as that they would elect these young bloods, who it was suggested would come down and carry the council by storm. But when he wished to hear scorn poured upon a democratic body he always went to a democrat. He saw no reason why the boroughs should elect men from outside, though there were good reasons why aldermen should be chosen. The only object the local authority would have in exercising the power would be to have the assistance of a man whose knowledge, experience, and ability would add strength and efficiency to local administration. In many districts there were men who were not qualified as voters who had devoted much time to district affairs, and no doubt they might be co-opted as aldermen. Then again there was the tradesman who had made money in his district, and who had been identified with the progress of the district, and served upon the Vestry, and who retired and went and lived in the suburbs. He retained his interest in his old borough and his years of experience in municipal work. There were many cases of that kind where such a man would be most useful on the council of the borough. If he thought for a moment that the Amendment could have the effect which some gentlemen imputed to it he should oppose it, but he thought its operation would be entirely different.

Amendment amended, by leaving out the words "either as councillor" and the words "or mayor."

Question proposed—

"That the words 'Provided also, that any person possessing the necessary qualification for election as a Member of one of the metropolitan borough councils shall be qualified to be elected alderman of any borough council within the administrative county of London' be there added."

MR. STUART did not think the discussion turned upon the meaning of the words "as councillor," but really what

the result would be of extending this privilege to "aldermen and mayors." Every argument which had been used in favour of extending the privilege told more extensively the other way. There were men in different parts of London who were anxious to act on the councils of one of the new boroughs, and it was open to anybody to select them. The question was whether it should be open to the general body of electors to select them. He was against the wider view that was now suggested. What was the ground for letting certain persons have any qualification at all in connection with local or general work? A Member of Parliament was required to be a man with a stake in the county, and in the County Council a man was required who had a stake in the county. The only great exception to the otherwise universal rule of qualification was in the election to the School Board. For the School Board there is no qualification necessary at all, though that Board at the same time levies taxes and deals with local interests. The honourable Member was unable to say why that alteration was made, but he thought that in all probability it was felt in that case it was desirable to sweep into the School Board expert opinion. That being the case, he did not see the desirability of breaking through the established rule in this particular instance without some very good ground for it, though there was a great deal of truth in the suggestion that a man interested in London as a whole was interested in all parts of it. London as a whole is governed by a central body, but in each of the boroughs, so far as they are boroughs, the men who had to govern them were only interested in that particular locality. The rates which they had to deal with are the remainder after the general rate for general purposes, and therefore it was a matter for them alone. He could quite understand those who argued that there should be no qualification for the borough councillors and aldermen, although he did not agree with them. But when it was suggested that they should be ratepayers of London as a whole, that was a thing he was unable to understand. It was unnecessary to labour the point, as the arguments were so well known. On the other hand there was the confidence in the Local Government body to be considered. By these elections there might be people elected who were not interested in the borough, and as

representatives of the borough they might not get its support, because they would not have its confidence. If this non-representative element was brought in, the Committee would have to remember that it was brought in for six years, and that in placing these men on these councils the councils would be deprived of confidence to which they were entitled. He believed that the grand success of this Bill depended upon not introducing any foreign element in the sense that was proposed. He should give his vote against the extension of the principle.

MR. GOULDING (Wiltshire, Devizes), said that he thought the object of the Bill was to create greater interest in localities and to strengthen the Local Government body, and he considered the Amendment before the Committee would rob it of anything that could be said in its favour. He himself should oppose the Amendment, and he should have thought that the experience of his honourable friend as a member of the London County Council would have shown him that the majority of that body selected their own aldermen, and that in nine-tenths of the cases they had been mainly selected on political grounds. Exactly the same thing would happen in the East-end of London. Even if these emissaries did come from the Fabian Society and Toynbee Hall and other places—they would not be elected. He had confidence in the working-men, and he was certain that the introduction of these emissaries from other districts would be viewed as an insult by the constituencies.

MR. BARTLEY thought that London was in many respects so different from other places that it was going absurdly strictly into the matter to say that only those who resided in that district should be aldermen for the borough of that district. It was not necessary for an alderman to live in his borough, and as London was subject to a different law to the provincial boroughs, he did not think the rule should be so rigidly enforced. He instanced the case of a street dividing a borough, and characterised it as absurd to say that a man living on one side of the street was entitled to be an alderman while a man residing upon the other was not. He thought it was rather a strong order to suggest that any council having

already sixty men would turn their attention to selecting all the most unreasonable people they could find as aldermen. He did not think that the privilege would be much used in any case, but at all events he favoured giving the council a right to select their aldermen from where they pleased, and if they did happen to select gentlemen coming from Toynbee Hall and other places, it might not be so bad a thing for the council after all.

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) was indisposed to yield to the vague terror which seemed to have seized Members on both sides in connection with this Amendment. Why fears should prevail that outside candidates would enter the councils in the form of representatives of the Fabian Society, the Primrose League, or of a large contractor, he did not know. They must trust to the good sense of the constituencies to make the most suitable selections. He was in favour of the Amendment. He wished to see the power of selection applied to the best advantage, and to provide that the best talent would be available, from whatever part of London it came.

MR. H. S. SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) opposed the Amendment, because he firmly believed that if London was divided into a series of boroughs, it was very desirable to inculcate local feeling in the borough so far as possible, otherwise the Bill would be absolutely useless. He thought that aldermen should be qualified by rating for the district in which they sat, and under the circumstances it would be ridiculous to allow an alderman to be elected who was not so qualified. He sincerely trusted that the First Lord of the Treasury would not accept the Amendment, which was subversive of everything that the Bill aimed at bringing about. That was the view that he believed was held by a great number of the poorer classes.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) expressed the hope that the Government would accept the Amendment. He did not think there would be any temptation to select unduly people who did not reside in the locality; on the contrary, he thought the temptation was the other way, and that only when the candidate was very strong indeed, would he be selected in preference to a local man. He thought that councils

should be allowed to elect from as wide a field as possible in order to obtain the services of the best men. In asking himself what was the true underlying motive for much of the disapproval that was felt towards the Amendment, he could not help coming to the conclusion that there was a certain jealousy of these new bodies on the other side of the House, and that some honourable Members were unwilling to accept any Amendment which would induce good men to serve. If they were satisfied that better people would come from the other parts of London to be aldermen or councillors, they ought to give the electoral bodies the fullest freedom to select them with a single eye for the good government of their respective districts.

CAPTAIN NORTON said that if the argument of the noble Lord were worth anything, any men resident in the United Kingdom, not merely in London, should be admissible. Why should not those who happened to reside at Richmond or West Ham be able to take part in the local government of other portions of London? An honourable Member had asked why they had any fears. They had fears because they had in London great knowledge of wire-pulling. There were a large number of men who in certain localities were so well known that they were able to obtain municipal honours. They had not the confidence of their neighbours, but having wealth at their disposal, they could, with comparative ease, succeed, although unsuited for local government, in planting themselves upon the poorer constituencies in the East End. It was a remarkable fact that almost every Member who had spoken, who hailed from the East End or represented a poor constituency, had been definitely against the Amendment. He regarded that as one of the strongest arguments against it. If the object of the Bill was to interest localities in local government, it was only proper and right that those who belonged to them should have the honours and dignities attached to the successful performance of the duties.

*MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth) said the argument that a man should not be disqualified because he lived on the further side of the road, along the centre of which the borough boundary ran, was very easily disposed of. If he were so disqualified he

would not contribute to the rates of the district over which he might be called to legislate. He hoped they would exclude from the representation of the borough councils anybody who had not a direct interest in the boroughs themselves, and who might have an interest in voting for expenditure to which he did not contribute.

*MR. MARKS said that if it were a good thing that they should elect for the borough councils members from London at large, they could hardly have too much of it, and the rule should apply to councillors, aldermen and mayors. The success of experimental legislation must depend in a very large measure upon the spirit in which it was taken up by the people whom it most directly concerned. After what had taken place in Committee, those who composed the borough councils would be justified in saying: "In the opinion of the House of Commons there is no reason why we should go outside our boundaries to find councillors. We are good enough to serve in the ranks; but when it comes to the question of appointing officers, when it comes to the question of the dignities, when it comes to the question of distributing the plums, then these things will not be for us in the limits of the borough, but for those great and good men who came from the west, or the south, or the north." If the Committee had practically decided that it was not a good thing to go outside the boundaries of a borough for councillors, but that it was a good thing to go outside for the one-sixth who would constitute the aldermen, a very peculiar position was created, because that one-sixth in a large number of cases, if not in the majority of cases, would hold the balance of power on the Council, and vital questions affecting the locality, which would come up for decision before those Councils, would depend upon the ultimate judgment, not of the members who represented the localities, but of the imported carpet-baggers from other parts of the Metropolis. When it was remembered that the county councils had to levy rates, that they had to vote upon various questions of local importance, and that many questions would arise as to the apportionment of the cost of improvement between one council and another—and frequently between adjoining districts, the difficulties were numerous and

Lord Hugh Cecil.

considerable. It was perfectly true that there might be a good many more competent men residing in one part of London than another, but where these men were really competent, where they really desired to serve on these borough bodies, they would be wanted in their own constituencies. He could not help thinking that the acceptance of the Amendment would have the result of suggesting—whether rightly or wrongly he would not stop to inquire—that it was not intended to give to these new municipalities the full advantages of the enhanced dignity which had been claimed for them, but that these were to be reserved for the inhabitants of the more wealthy and distinguished parts of London.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have listened with some interest, but I must confess with some surprise also, to the Debate. My inclinations are rather in favour of the Amendment, but whether I am right or wrong I cannot understand the subject being made one of heated disputation. Honourable Members on both sides of the House, I think, have talked as if the poorer constituencies of the Metropolis would regard this as a slight deliberately planned by the Government and inflicted by the House upon them. Well, Sir, I need hardly say that if this Amendment were carried, that would not represent either the intentions of the Government or of the House of Commons. I do not believe that in one case out of 100 these constituencies would think of going outside their own area to find assistance. The intention of the Bill is undoubtedly to confer a greater dignity upon these local bodies, and one method of doing that is to create the office of aldermen, which may form the object of local ambition. That, I am sure, will be the view taken by the borough councils, and there will, therefore, be no temptation to go outside their own numbers, except in those very rare cases where an individual has, for some special reason, made himself a *persona grata* in the locality. We have, I think, the strongest confirmation of that view in the action of the borough councils in the provinces. I doubt whether half a dozen cases could be produced of aldermen in the provincial councils.

MR. H. S. SAMUEL: They must have a rating qualification.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The point is whether the Council, once elected, are to go outside their own members for aldermen.

MR. H. S. SAMUEL: They do so. I can give several cases, one of which is that of the honourable Member for South-east Durham, who has served as councillor before.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Then the honourable Member, broadly speaking, agrees with me. I do not see why the London borough councils should be different from provincial borough councils. I think they should be exactly the same. The operation of this Amendment, if carried, will be very insignificant. But, of course, after the strong expression of opinion from the Members for East London on both sides of the House, I shall not make a Government question of the Amendment. Personally I retain my predilection for the elasticity which the Amendment would give.

SIR BLUNDELL MAPLE said he was glad the Government were not going to make this a party question. He felt it was the greatest possible mistake for councils to go outside their own body for aldermen, as it encouraged party politics inside the chamber, and did not lead to the selection of the best men.

*COLONEL HUGHES believed that the substance of the Amendment was already embodied in the Bill, for under the London Government Act of 1888 there was power given to elect aldermen from any part of the County of London and from outside the county, provided they were freeholders. That provision was carried into this Bill in Section 2, Sub-section 3.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER pointed out that if aldermen could be elected from all over London it was to a body which had to deal with the whole of London, whereas now they were dealing with the constitution of purely local bodies. Ten aldermen were to be elected for St. Pancras, and he protested strongly against their being chosen from outside St. Pancras, as there were plenty of suitable men in the constituency. He could understand very well the position taken up by his honourable friend the Member for Chelsea. He

had the honour of being an alderman of the London County Council, and was one of those gentlemen who wished to rule the whole of London. He did not think it would be in the interest of local self-government to make the selection from outside.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich) said that no doubt there were many cases in which provincial municipal boroughs had elected aldermen from outside the council. In Ipswich he could recall many instances. But was there not a great difference between that case and the case of London? Gentlemen elected as aldermen in municipal boroughs had certain qualifications locally, and there would not be the same objection to a similar system applying in London if the aldermen selected resided in the district included in the borough. But the amendment would enable them to be chosen from any part of London to sit in any particular borough council, and that was where the injustice came in. The First Lord of the Treasury had somewhat complained that the argument on the point had been heated, but he seemed not to know how people objected to have their local influence over-ridden by gentlemen from outside.

MR. HUBBARD (Lambeth, Brixton), said he thought the opposition to the Amendment was founded on a fallacy. The honourable Member for East St. Pancras expressed a fear that ten gentlemen from Chelsea would go down to his constituency to manage local affairs there. But he overlooked the fact that if they did go it would be not at their own wish but at the request of the council. Every Member who had spoken against the Amendment had argued as if it were proposed to take away from the borough councils the power of choosing the aldermen, and he did protest against what was an actual privilege being interpreted as a

slight and indignity on the Council. It was only giving the freest expression and liberty to that democratic choice which every council should possess. Suppose a council went outside its own body and selected the right honourable Baronet the Member for the University of London as an alderman, would he not be a source of strength to the council?

MR. H. S. SAMUEL hoped honourable Members from the East End of London would fight this question as a matter of principle. The law, so far as London municipal councils was concerned, was quite different from that affecting provincial councils. In this matter they ought to be guided by the Law Officers of the Crown. As had been pointed out, sub-section B of section 10 of the Municipal Corporations Act required that anyone elected as an alderman should possess certain rating or occupying qualifications in the borough, and surely no man who had not such a qualification ought to be allowed to sit on a council and spend the ratepayers' money. Yet that was what this Amendment proposed. He hoped the Committee by its vote would affirm the principle he had cited from the Municipal Corporations Act.

MR. COHEN said the Amendment gave the borough councils exactly the same facility as that which the right honourable Gentleman proposed to give honourable Members in voting upon it—full liberty of action. Honourable Gentlemen opposite who were members of the London County Council had in the past shown their readiness to avail themselves of this power of electing aldermen from outside the council.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 134; Noes, 221. (Division List, No. 121.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.

Mr. R. G. Webster.

Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Beresford, Lord Charles
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Butcher, John George

Buxton, Sydney Charles
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis

(Colomb), Sir John Charles Ready
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doughty, George
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Folkestone, Viscount
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
Gilliat, John Saunders
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Graham, Henry Robert
Gunter, Colonel
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howard, Joseph
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn

Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Hutton, John (York, N.R.)
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lafone, Alfred
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
Malcolm, Ian
Middlemore, John Throgmort.
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mount, William George
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Newark, Viscount
Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Penn, John
Philippe, John Wynford
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur

Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edinburgh)
Rankin, Sir James
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thompson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. (Kent)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr.
Whitmore and Mr. W. F. D.
Smith.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, W. (Newc. under Lyne)
Allison, Robert Andrew
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Ascroft, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bainbridge, Emerson
Baker, Sir John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clack.)
Barlow, John Emmott
Barnes, Frederic G. [Hunts]
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bethell, Commander
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Bir.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Clough, Walter Owen
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Currie, Sir Donald
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dunn, Sir William
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tattee
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man.)

Forster, Henry William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus F.
Gold, Charles
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Horniman, Frederick John
Howell, William Tudor
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kemp, George
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth
Lambert, George
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)

Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Lough, Thomas
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macaleese, Daniel
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McArthur, William (Cornwall)
 McGhee, Richard
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edin. W.)
 McKenna, Reginald
 McLaren, Charles Benjamin
 McLeod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. Jn.
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morley, Charles (Breckshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Dept'fd)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)

Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pender, Sir James
 Percy, Earl
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Richard
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reekitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
 Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert

Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strachey, Edward
 Strauss, Arthur
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Wallace, Robert (Perth)
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas (Courtenay T.)
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (I. of Wight)
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N.)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woods, Samuel
 Wyvill, Marnaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr.
 Marks and Mr. Goulding.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said the next Amendment which stood in his name was to insert words providing that the poll should be kept open until 10 o'clock at night. He held that this extension was necessary to meet the needs of classes who had to go long distances to work and to return again at night. Many of the working classes did not leave work till seven at night, and they had the greatest difficulty in getting to the poll by eight o'clock.

Amendment proposed, after the words last added, to add the words—

"Provided that at every election of councillors under this Act the poll (if any) shall commence at eight o'clock in the forenoon and be kept open till ten o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, and no longer."—(Captain Sinclair.)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there added."

SIR R. B. FINLAY hoped the Amendment would not be pressed. No doubt there

was a precedent for it in the case of the election of guardians in London, where, by order of the County Council, the hours could be extended, but the present arrangement had hitherto worked satisfactorily, and as it was in accordance with the general law he thought it should be maintained.

MR. STUART supported the Amendment, on the ground that many working men had to leave their homes before the poll opened and could not get back by 8 p.m. The polling booths were always very crowded during the last hour. He had made careful inquiry in the district with which he was more particularly connected, and he had found that the extension would benefit both political parties equally. He understood that one of the objects of the Bill was to create a larger amount of interest in the elections, and he believed that the Amendment would enable large numbers to vote who were now excluded by the closing of the poll at 8 p.m.

*MR. SPICER (Monmouth Boroughs) said that as one who had lived in London all his life, and knew something of the conditions of the employment of the people, he was convinced that if the closing hour remained at 8 p.m. a large number of clerks and shop assistants would be disfranchised. No doubt daily work commenced later in London than in the country, but it also ended later, and hence it was desirable to keep the poll open till 10 p.m.

MR. BARTLEY believed that however late the poll was kept open a certain number of people would refrain from voting until the last moment. It should be remembered that they had a staff of clerks engaged in the polling booths from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and it would be very hard on them to make them work 14 hours. In Parliamentary elections, in which the poll closed at 8 p.m., 90 per cent. of the electors registered their votes, and the same percentage ought in municipal elections to record their votes in the same hours.

MR. SOAMES (Norfolk, S.) said he should be surprised to hear of any place in which 90 per cent. of the electors polled.

MR. BARTLEY: In some Parliamentary divisions in London we certainly get 90 per cent.

MR. SOAMES said he should like to see the figures. It was all very well to argue that it would be unfair to the polling clerks to make them work more than 12 hours a day; but how about the working men who had to do it every day? If they asked these men's wives they would be told, "My husband leaves home before eight in the morning and will not be back till after eight at night." He submitted it was absolutely necessary to extend the hours, and he hoped that under the circumstances the Leader of the House would leave his followers free to vote as they liked.

MR. PICKERSGILL said the matter was an important one, and could not be dismissed in the cavalier manner which the honourable Member for Islington had adopted. He certainly should like to know of any Parliamentary division in which 90 per cent. of the electors polled.

It assuredly was not the case in the East End of London, where hundreds were simply disfranchised by the early hours of closing the poll. He thought they were entitled to something more than the perfunctory reply given by the Solicitor-General. London was a city by itself, and country precedents could not be applied to it.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) declared that though, no doubt, skilled and unskilled labourers might be able to vote between five and eight o'clock, there were thousands of clerks, warehousemen, and railway employees working many miles from home who did not leave work till 7 p.m. They were the ones who were disfranchised. He knew that in his own district at Clapham and Brixton hundreds were unable to vote in the School Board and County Council elections because they did not leave their work in the City until after 7 o'clock. He hoped that the First Lord of the Treasury would agree to extend the hour to 10 o'clock, or at least to 9.

MR. ASQUITH (Fife, E.) thought that the balance of argument was very strongly in favour of an Amendment in the sense of that moved by his honourable and gallant friend. This was, admittedly, not in any sense a party matter, and he could not help hoping, therefore, that the Government would make some response to the appeal addressed to them. It was impossible in this case to ignore the fact that London had been already treated as a place which required exceptional legislation in matters of this kind. If there had been a uniform rule as regards the hours of poll, then he would admit that there might be a *prima facie* objection to the change. The conditions of London labour were exceptional, and required exceptional legislation to enable large numbers of people to exercise the vote. He could not see any ground, either of principle or expediency, for preventing the extension of exceptional treatment to London on this question.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said this was not a party matter at all. Many Members on his side of the House would regret that it should go forth to London that a party division was taken as to whether the poll should be kept open an hour or two longer. In fixing the

hours of polling regard should be had to the convenience of the large majority of voters. The convenience of the large majority differed in different parts of London, and he ventured to suggest as a compromise that it should be left as a matter of local option, having regard to the circumstances of the particular locality, to extend the hour to 9 o'clock. He represented a portion of London where a large number of working men could not get home in time to vote before 8 o'clock, and the extra hour would enable an increased number to record their votes over those who did so at present. He agreed with the Government that 8 o'clock should be the normal hour, and he thought that 10 went too far in the other direction.

CAPTAIN NORTON most heartily supported the Amendment of his honourable and gallant friend, because that gentleman had considerable knowledge of the subject, not only in connection with the London County Council, but with philanthropic movements in the East End. He himself had had considerable experience as to the hours when working men returned to their homes at night, and he could say that to fix the close of the poll at 8 o'clock would be to disfranchise a large proportion of working men. Further, when the elections took place in the summer months a large proportion were disfranchised because they had to go to their work outside the radius of London. Honourable Members had pleaded against the Amendment that it would cause the staff to be employed two hours extra, but the staff might very well work an hour later when they were highly paid for it. The same honourable Gentlemen had spoken of 90 per cent. of the voters in London going to the poll. This was preposterous. The highest percentage was in Woolwich, where 72 per cent. voted, but that was at a Parliamentary election, and the voters were resident on the spot. In other parts of London, even in Parliamentary elections, it depended frequently on whether a man succeeded in catching a 'bus, a tram, or a train as to whether he would be able to vote or not. If the object of the Bill was to create an interest in local government, surely they ought to provide for bringing as large a number of voters to the poll as possible. With the present hour there was always an unseemly rush of people to the poll at

Mr. Bousfield.

the last moment. Returns in regard to the School Board Elections in one district showed that up to 1 o'clock 210 had voted, at 5 o'clock 397, at 6 o'clock 456, at 7 o'clock 544, at 8 o'clock 820, and at 9 o'clock 926. These figures demonstrated the extreme importance of the extension of the polling. Where the poll had been extended to 9 o'clock there had been nothing approaching riotous proceedings, and even if a very small proportion went to the poll under the influence of liquor, that was no reason why the majority of the constituency should be deprived of their votes.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) said the Committee had forgotten the extent to which London had been treated exceptionally in this matter. Long ago, when Parliamentary elections closed at 4 and 5 o'clock in the rest of the United Kingdom, London had already an 8 o'clock poll. He had personally investigated the subject, and found that even after the hours of polling had been extended to 8 o'clock large numbers were disfranchised. It was also found, after litigation, that those who had got into the polling room could not vote when the hour arrived. So far as he knew, the only reason which had been alleged against the extension of the hour was the work of the clerks. As matters stood it was an exceptional day's work for a highly trained staff. Moreover it was proved that some of the staff were generally employed at the counting, and the counting frequently went on to midnight or 1 o'clock in the morning. If the staff were able to conduct the business of counting after the work they had done in the polling booths, he submitted that this exceptionally trained staff would be quite able to carry on their work at the poll for an hour or two longer.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON asked whether the Solicitor-General or the Leader of the House could give any substantial reasons why the proposed extension should not be made. The only reason he had heard was that it would impose extra work on a few officials. Well, that meant only once in three years, and their convenience ought not to stand in the way of the convenience of the electors.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is quite clear that this is a question on which, from the

nature of the case, considerations may be adduced on both sides. It can only be decided on the balance of the argument. So far as the two most important elections in London are concerned, namely, Parliamentary and County Council, Parliament has decided in favour of the poll closing at 8 o'clock, although, no doubt, in the case of the School Board election, the poll was extended to 9 o'clock. In the case of vestries the polling is also from 8 in the morning to 8 at night. It is possible, I do not deny it, that even the twelve hours during which the poll is open may be insufficient, but I would point out to the right honourable Baronet that since the twelve hours' polling has been fixed by Parliament the hours of labour have been considerably diminished. If 8 o'clock was a suitable hour for closing the poll when Parliament last discussed the question, it is still more suitable at the present time, when the fact is taken into account that there has been this diminution in the hours of labour. If the hours are to be changed for London elections, they should be changed for all London after a careful enquiry in regard to all London. I do not think it would be desirable in regard to this Bill to make an exception to the decision which the House deliberately came to with reference to the more important elections.

MR. JOHN BURNS said the House ought to be well up in the facts. In regard to School Board elections, both parties agreed that the hours should be extended from 8 to 9. That had been done on two occasions, and the result was that from 8 to 9, more voters polled than between 7 and 8. The Boards of Guardians had asked the London County Council to extend the hours from 8 to 10, and this had been done to the great satisfaction both of the electors, and of the candidates of different views. If that could be done with the School Board and the Boards of Guardians, it surely could be done in the case of the new councils, in which even more interest would be taken. He appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury to recognise another fact. The Vestries had frequently changed the election day from an ordinary working day to a Saturday, so as to give a large number of clerks and warehousemen an opportunity of voting. The effect had been to materially increase the number of voters going to the poll. If the First

Lord of the Treasury were to declare that henceforth all those elections would take place on Saturday, there would be no reason to extend the hours from 8 to 10. But if he could not do so, then in the face of experience, and the complex conditions of London life, the hours of polling should be extended as proposed in the Amendment.

MR. STEADMAN appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury to grant this moderate concession. The right honourable Gentleman said that the hours of labour had been reduced, and that working men had time to vote in the twelve hours at their disposal. But that applied to a very small section of the working classes. In the East-end of London men were employed in warehouses till 7 in the evening. Many of them were glad to get home, and if after a cup of tea they rushed to the polling-booth, the consequence was the crowd of voters was so great that they could not record their votes. The First Lord of the Treasury himself deplored the apathy in London in regard to elections at the present time. The only way to decrease that apathy was to enable every voter to record his vote. He would like to take the First Lord down to Mile-end on the 17th of this month, where he would find that from 8 o'clock in the morning to 5 in the afternoon the presiding officers and their clerks had nothing to do but to sit and smoke their cigars. If inquiry were made all over London, it would be found that the great majority of the people were in favour of an extension of the polling hours both of Parliamentary and municipal elections.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside) pointed out to the First Lord of the Treasury that the decrease in the hours of labour applied in London in quite a different way from out of London, and he knew from experience of both. In the skilled trades, for instance, a man might be living in Camberwell and working in Woolwich. Warehousemen and clerks also had to leave their homes before 8, and therefore could not vote in the morning; and they returned so late as to be unable to vote even at the last moment. If the right honourable Gentleman could not go the whole length of 10 o'clock, he could assure him that 9 o'clock would make an enormous difference. This was

a real grievance, and he assured the First Lord of the Treasury that he was now resisting one of the most reasonable appeals that had been made to him.

MR. BOUSFIELD said he desired to amend the Amendment by inserting after the word "till," the following words—

"Eight o'clock, or nine o'clock in the evening, if the Council shall previously so decide."

He did not think the Government had realised the importance of this matter, or what it meant to them if they treated the question in this way. If they went solid for eight o'clock the effect would be that an agitation in favour of elections on Saturday would be started, and then instead of the working classes being disfranchised, some of them would be disfranchised. He thought the Government would make a great mistake if they fixed the hour at eight o'clock, because a large number of people in London could not record their votes before that hour.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out from the word 'till,' to the end thereof, in order to add the words 'eight o'clock or nine o'clock in the afternoon if the council at a previous meeting shall so decide.'—(Mr. Bousfield.)

Question—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.

Put and agreed to.

Question put,—

"That the words 'Provided that at every election of councillors under this Act the poll (if any) shall commence at eight o'clock in the forenoon and be kept open till ten o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, and no longer' be there added."

The Committee divided :—Ayes 76 : Noes 161.—(Division List No. 122.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Baker, Sir John
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clough, Walter Owen
Crambie, John William
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Daly, James
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley

Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Horniman, Frederick John
Howard, Joseph
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh)
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Lambert, George
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macaleese, Daniel
McGhee, Richard
McKenna, Reginald
Maddison, Fred
Morley, Rt. Hon. John (Montrose)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)

Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rickett, J. Compton
Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
Schwann, Charles E.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Aldf. (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Woods, Samuel
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. M'Arthur

NOES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Waltham)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Bambury, Frederick George

Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith- (Hunts)
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bigwood, James
Bond, Edward
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.

Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis

Mr. Maddison.

Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shephard (Bolton)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Hannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Flockstone, Viscount
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn

Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kenyon, James
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monckton, Edward Philip
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry

Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsey
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrono)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Question proposed—

"That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

MR. PICKERSGILL drew the attention of the Committee to Sub-section 3, and said it was impossible to determine what it really meant. The Bill was mainly based upon the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, and was referred to through the Local Government Act, 1888. Surely the proper course would be to refer directly to the Act and insert the necessary modifications. Some of the provisions applied to the country at large and some to London, and it was difficult to know to which reference was made. With regard to Sub-section 4, it was provided that the law relating to the proceedings of the administrative vestry should apply to the new boroughs. That law was contained in the old Metropolis Local Management Act, which was very antiquated, and

certainly not in harmony with the common forms of local government which they had been introducing lately.

SIR R. B. FINLAY pointed out that the clause as it stood was quite clear and much shorter than it would have been if the provisions of the Act of 1882 had been set out in this clause. With regard to aldermen, he did not think that any doubt could arise, because they had cleared up that point by saying that the number of aldermen was to be one-sixth. As to Sub-section 4, the Government desired to keep intact what related to the constitution and the proceedings of the vestries. The provisions of the Metropolis Management Act were perfectly well understood in the Metropolis, and he thought it would be better to adopt that course instead of trying to draft fresh clauses.

MR. STUART thought that when their friends outside came to put their heads together to find out what this meant, they would fall into the same difficulties as the Member for Woolwich and himself had fallen into. No one was more intimate with this subject than the hon. Member for Woolwich, who had taken a different view to the Solicitor-General. If the Solicitor-General feared that, by setting this clause out fully, ingenious persons would take advantage of it by putting down Amendments, he would ask him to set the clause out fully when the Bill went up to the House of Lords. He was not pleading that anything unpleasant should be done to the Bill, but he was desirous that it should be made more self-contained, and he hoped the Solicitor-General would take his suggestion into consideration. When he tried to understand this clause he had ten different volumes of statutes before him, and he found that it was necessary to go through them all, before he could manage to probe to the bottom of what it meant.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, added to the Bill.

CAPTAIN NORTON in moving the next Amendment contended that its importance had been increased on account of the decision of the Committee not to extend the hours of polling. Many of the arguments brought forward against Saturday polling did not apply to London. The stock argument was that it would be highly inconvenient for seaside towns, because Saturday was their busiest day. Their object ought to be to fully ascertain the feeling of the electorate, and to bring the largest possible number to the poll, and the best day to accomplish that was the day on which the majority of the voters had the largest amount of leisure. He would be told that that day was Sunday, and that was the case in most continental places. English people, however, did not desire to have elections on Sunday, and he maintained that the next day upon which the majority of them were most free was Saturday. It had been argued that Saturday would be inconvenient for business men who had to leave for the country, but he thought that they might vote early in the day. It had been said

that the working man received his weekly wage on a Saturday, and not infrequently took the opportunity of having a drink, and, consequently, was not in a fit state to go to the poll. That was a very unjust argument towards by far the larger portion of working men.

THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): No-body has brought forward that argument.

CAPTAIN NORTON replied that it had been frequently urged that if the elections were held upon a Saturday it was likely to lead to riotous proceedings, which would necessitate a large force of police being brought into certain districts, and that was an unfair imputation against working men as a class.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER: Hear, hear.

CAPTAIN NORTON said that large numbers of builders and mechanics had to go out into the country to work, and did not arrive home except on Saturday in sufficient time to go to the poll, and consequently they would be disfranchised unless the poll took place on that day. Not only would this class be debarred from taking part in the election, but as to a very large proportion of the best class of men who influenced their fellow-men, who were active workers, and who generally devoted three or four hours after returning home on Saturday to bring up their mates to the poll, their services would be lost if the poll did not take place on Saturday.

Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 22, after the words "held on," to insert the words "the Saturday next following."
—(Captain Norton.)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said it was quite impossible for him to accept this Amendment. The hon. Member had stated that some Member of this House—he did not remember his name—or some orator whose name was lost to history, had stated that Saturday was an improper day, because a good many of the working men of London on that day were incapacitated by drink from going

to the poll. All he could say was that he did not believe there was a single Member on this side of the House who ever used that argument. When the hon. Member for West Newington made a suggestion of that kind, he should furnish the name of the hon. Member who made the charge. He hoped the House would remember that this suggestion came from an hon. Member on the opposite side of the House. In reference to Saturday polling, he claimed to know as much about the East End of London and the working classes as the hon. Member opposite, and he was quite satisfied that Saturday was in the populous parts the busiest day of the week. Then there was a large class who ought to be considered, and that was the Jewish population, who would be to a large extent disfranchised by Saturday polling. Under the circumstances he did not think there was any reason whatever for adopting a hard and fast rule that Saturday must be the day.

MR. STUART thought the arguments of the Attorney-General were rather thin. With regard to the Jews, there were specific arrangements made for them which covered that question. The County Council elections had been taken on Saturday, and there had been no difficulty experienced in that respect. With regard to the preparation of the list of voters the Amendment would give a few days longer. There was no doubt that the generality of the working classes of London had more leisure on Saturday than upon any other day. The Attorney-General had said that he was well acquainted with the East End of London, but perhaps he had not had so much experience of local elections as other Members had had. Unhesitatingly he said that Saturday was freer than any other day, and that was illustrated by the fact that they had had a larger poll generally throughout London on Saturday than upon any other day. As to Saturday being inconvenient for shopkeepers, he would point out that they were not very seriously engaged on Saturday mornings, although they were later in the day. He did not think the Attorney-General had brought any arguments of weight against Saturday polling.

MR. COHEN said that reference had been made to the members of his own community, but he wished to say that where the requirements of the Jewish

community in any way conflicted with those of the general community he should be the very last person to urge that their requirements should prevail. Tolerance had been shown towards the Jewish community by a special arrangement with regard to Saturday, but in spite of this he did not think that Saturday polling could be defended on the plea of convenience for the community at large. There were a great many boroughs who would prefer any day of the week but Saturday, and there were many sections of London where Wednesday or Saturday was an early closing day. He wished to protest against the plea that they could dogmatise generally, and say that Saturday was the best day. He hoped the Government would adhere to their decision upon this point.

MR. JOHN BURNS said the hon. Member who had just sat down forgot that if the Government had conceded an extension of the polling hours, Saturday would not have been pressed as the alternative which was now proposed. The object of every municipal reformer should be to get the greatest number of persons to the poll to record their votes. He thought exceptional arrangements were requisite for polling in London, for the overwhelming bulk of artisans, both skilled and unskilled, and at least 90 per cent. of the persons who earned under £4 a week had some part of Saturday between two o'clock and eight available for voting. The convenience of the largest number ought to be considered, and Saturday gave a larger number of men better facilities for voting than any other day in the week afforded. If they had the election on Wednesday or Thursday, which were the early closing days, that would only give to a limited class in the neighbourhood a special facility for voting, and that class would be the shopkeepers and their assistants. In Islington and Battersea, shopping did not really begin to any appreciable extent before 12 o'clock on Saturday, and therefore this allowed part of Saturday morning, when the shopkeepers or their assistants could go out for 10 minutes to record their votes. On the ground that he wanted this Bill to create an interest in local life, which could only be done by meeting the wishes of the majority, he should support Saturday as a day on which the shopkeepers and their assistants could vote,

and because 90 per cent. of the voters in this big city had a better opportunity of voting on Saturday than upon any other day. The experience of the County Council elections, and those held in connection with vestries and guardians, had proved that on a Saturday they had a larger proportion of voters who went to the poll, and he believed they would stimulate local life and rouse more enthusiasm in every section of the community by fixing Saturday as the polling day.

MR. LOWLES (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said the 90 per cent. of the electorate spoken of as having Saturdays free only represented about 10 per cent. of the ratepaying element. He made a special study of the question at the last County Council election, and he ventured to declare that nine-tenths of the street traders, *i.e.*, costermongers, who had stalls in the streets on Saturdays, as well as the small shopkeepers, were practically disfranchised by Saturday polling. This was surely a question in which the ratepayers' interests ought to be considered, and in constituencies like his own, where the small shopkeepers were most affected by the increase in the rates, it was right that their interests, even if they only represented—which he did not admit—10 per cent. of the electorate, should be considered. He ventured to think that they would not be considered if Saturday polling were made a *sine quâ non* of the Bill.

CAPTAIN NORTON said he frankly admitted that in certain districts and in certain trades it might be inconvenient to choose Saturday, but they ought to look at the matter from the point of view of the entire electorate. It had been conclusively proved that Saturday gave the heaviest poll, and if the object of the Bill was to create an interest in local elections, the point required no further argument. He had made special inquiry with regard to the question of the Jews, and was informed that it was of little moment to them, and that the number of Jewish voters throughout London was very small. As regarded the shopkeepers, all the middle class shopkeepers closed their establishments early on Saturday. It was only the small shopkeepers who kept open late at night, but these did not

Mr. John Burns.

do much business on Saturday morning. It was not until after two in the afternoon that they were busy.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER, as representing what might be called a railway constituency, said he knew that railway men were more busy on Saturday than any other day of the week. There was no doubt a very large number of electors in London who did not want to dawdle around polling booths on Saturday afternoons, but preferred to go into the suburbs, probably to play football at Battersea or Kennington Oval. It was absolutely incorrect to say that the working men of London received their pay on Saturdays. He was informed that nine-tenths of them received their pay on Fridays. Meetings were never held on Saturday afternoons or evenings, for the reason that they could not get the people together. If they could not get them together, how could they get them to the poll? He ventured to think there could not be a worse day for polling than Saturday.

*COLONEL HUGHES (Woolwich) said he was prepared to admit that more people might go to the poll on Saturday than any other day of the week, but at the same time Saturday was a very inconvenient day for a great number of people, *viz.*: the women voters and the tradesmen. Others liked to spend their Saturday afternoon as a half-holiday, and to go to football. The advantage, therefore, of fixing the 1st of November was that sometimes the election would come on Saturday and sometimes on Friday, and, in fact, any day of the week, so that they would all have a turn at some time or other. Still, he was prepared to say that the poll would be heavier on Saturdays, not so much because the working men could not vote on any other day, but because on the Saturday afternoon they had an opportunity of turning out and bringing voters to the poll. Whatever day was fixed would be an inconvenience to some class of voters.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 77; Noes, 173. (Division List, No. 123.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Baker, Sir John
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Crombie, John William
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Daly, James
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John

Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Griffiths, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burden
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
 Kitson, Sir James
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)

Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Captain Norton and Mr.
 James Stuart.

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus Hny. Eden
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Grld. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederick Gorell
 Barry, R. Hn. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bigwood, James
 Bond, Edward
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Cornwallis, Fienness Stanley W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
 Cox, Irwin Edwd. B. (Harrow)
 Cripps, Charles Alfred

Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Flower, Ernest
 Folkestone, Viscount
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Howard, Joseph

Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jessel, Captain Herb. Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kemp, George
 Kenyon, James
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Wlfr. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 MacIure, Sir John William
 Marks, Henry Hananel
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, Jhn. Throgmorton
 Milton, Viscount
 Monckton, Edward Philip
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, R. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)

Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chs. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)

Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox'd. Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of W'ht.)

Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Josph. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburch, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. STUART moved the substitution of May for November as the date of the elections. He pointed out that the elections for the vestries had for a long time been held in May, and the experience to be derived from London elections was decidedly in favour, having regard to the comfort of all concerned, of holding them in that month.

Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 22, to leave out the word "November," in order to insert the word "May."—(Mr. Stuart.)

Question proposed—

"That the word 'November' stand part of the Clause."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said it was impossible for the Government to adopt the suggestion of the hon. Member. There had been a disposition throughout the country for years that the municipal authorities should come into office in November. Apart from that, the Government desired to assimilate the date of the election for the new municipal boroughs to the same date as in boroughs in other parts of the country, and there was no reason why the representatives should not come into office all at the same time.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON was sorry that the Attorney-General had decided that there was no possibility of an alter-

native date other than November. There was no practical reason why November should be adopted.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) considered that it was very desirable to select those times and seasons which were most convenient to the great majority of electors, but he really thought November was a better month than May. In May a great many people were out of town. In November London had settled down, and the great bulk of Londoners were in residence.

MR. LOUGH thought the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would get into trouble if he insisted too much on observing the analogy between the new municipal boroughs and the corporations in the country. It had always been recognised in this House that in London a system should be adopted which was suitable to itself, and the proposal contained in the Amendment was one of those very points where it would be much more convenient to depart from the practice of the provinces. He thought the proposal would commend itself to London men, and he therefore hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment.

Question put.

The Committee divided. Ayes 189; Noes 84. (Division List No. 124.)

AYES.

Allhusen, August. Henry Eden
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bailey, James (Walworth)

Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith—(Hunts)

Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bigwood, James
 Bond, Edward

Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collins, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Cornwallis, Fienes Stanley W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H
 Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbais, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man'r
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Flower, Ernest
 Folkestone, Viscount
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Galloway, William Johnston
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward

Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Halett, Sir James Horner
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning—(Corn
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 Marks, Henry Hananel
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Masville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monckton, Edward Philip
 Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)

More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthr. H. A. (Deptford
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Grahm. (Bute
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pease, Herbt. Pike (Darlington
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Seoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Straus, Arthur
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Chas. Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell—(Birm
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburch, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Burns, John
 Burton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Carrill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick

Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, D. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Crombie, John William
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Daly, James
 Davies, M. Vaughan—(Cardigan
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)

Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
 Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
 Kitson, Sir James

Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cnmb'land
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Ghee, Richard
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
Moss, Samuel

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellealey
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles

Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John, (Govan)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr.
James Stuart and Mr. Lough.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER moved in page 2, after "council" to insert :—

"Who shall also fix a corresponding date for the first elections for mayors and aldermen."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. TREVELYAN, said that the Amendment he now moved would settle the day and the hour at which the first meeting should be held. He wished that the first meeting should be held in the evening, after six p.m., as a very large class could not possibly attend before that hour. The chief class concerned was the working men of the metropolis, who in nine cases out of ten could not attend earlier. Another class also deserved consideration, namely, civil servants, who very often took considerable interest in local government. If the first meeting were held after six p.m., the borough councils would be able to settle the subsequent meetings for themselves, but he thought it was clear that an opportunity should be given the working men to attend the first meeting.

Amendment proposed, in page 2 line 24, at end, to insert—

"The first meeting of all the newly elected borough councils shall be held within three weeks after the election, and in the evening after the hour of six p.m."—(Mr. Trevelyan.)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY hoped the Committee would not accept the Amendment. He did not see why it was necessary to say that the first meeting should be held at any particular hour. If necessary, pro-

vision could be made under Section 21 or by Order in Council for the first meeting. It seemed entirely out of place in this section.

MR. BOUSFIELD asked how was the first body to be brought together.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said that when the body was formed it would, of course, arrange to meet.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that in the Act of 1894 a similar provision was inserted.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that he did not see why the Solicitor-General should not accept the Amendment. In the Act of 1894 it was provided that the first meeting should not be held earlier than six o'clock. He would suggest that the Amendment be accepted. The vestries included in Schedule A now met between six p.m., and 7.30 p.m., which showed that experience was against an earlier meeting. The argument might be used that that hour was not convenient for shop keepers. As a matter of fact, it would be very convenient for London shopkeepers, as it would be found that the majority of the Schedule A vestries met on Wednesday or Thursday evening, both early closing days, and as the overwhelming bulk of working men, civil servants and others could not get to the council meeting before six, he saw no reason why the first meeting should not be fixed after that hour.

MR. LOUGH appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to consider the point, because if he did not it would seem as though there was some prejudice against giving the working men an opportunity of attending the first meeting. It was

well known that in many cases working men had had to lose half a day's wages in order to attend the local meetings.

MR. LOWLES said he was in favour of giving the working men a chance, but it was a matter for the convenience of the local bodies themselves.

MR. STUART said there was nothing in the Amendment that prevented the local bodies fixing the day of the meeting.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is rather a small point, which really comes under Section 21. I am not at all sure that the hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment, and the hon. Gentlemen who supported, are not right in saying that something must be put into the Bill as to the first meeting; but the proper place is in Clause 21, and the matter will be considered.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. BOUSFIELD moved, in page 2, line 24, after "council" to insert:

"All members of elective vestries and district boards in the County of London in office on the first day of January in the year 1900 shall continue in office till the appointed day."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said the Government would accept the Amendment as far as the principle was concerned. Clause 3 was not, however, the proper place to move it, as it had nothing to do with elections.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY moved—

"In Clause 3, page 2, line 27, at end, to insert: 'The ordinary day of election of the mayor and aldermen shall be the ninth day of November, or if that day be a Sunday, then the following day.'"

Amendment agreed to.

*CAPTAIN JESSEL, in moving a new Sub-section (3), said he thought it was impossible under the Bill that the work could be accomplished by the 20th of October, or that candidates and agents would have sufficient time up to the 1st November in which to put the electoral machinery into working order. He proposed to extend the time by five days, by pro-

viding that the list should be published on the 16th of October. It might be said that that was not very much, but when it was remembered that the total time given by the Bill was only ten days he thought it would be a considerable concession if an addition was made of five extra days. The part of the Amendment dealing with the functions of revising barristers was inserted in order that their work should be finished by the 1st of October, so that the returning officer would have the list earlier, and be enabled to do his portion of the work by the 16th instead of the 20th of October. He also proposed that they should change the name from "Parochial Register" to "Borough Register," as being more in harmony with the spirit of the Bill. He wished that every possible means should be taken to ensure that the list of voters should be as perfect as possible.

Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 28, to leave out Sub-section (3) in order to insert—

"(3) The lists of Parliamentary voters, including the ownership lists of voters, and the lists of county electors, shall, in each year after the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, be revised in every metropolitan borough between the eighth day of September and the thirtieth day of September, both inclusive, and shall be revised as soon as possible after the seventh day of September. Such revised lists shall be printed, and signed, and placed on sale by the town clerk appointed under this Act before the sixteenth day of October, and shall come into operation as the register of borough electors on the first day of November next following, and the law relating to the register of electors shall, with the necessary modifications, apply accordingly."

Question proposed—

"That Sub-section (3) stand part of the clause."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said the Amendment raised two important points: one as to revision, the other with regard to the publication of the lists. The information he had received with regard to the work likely to be required to be done in London led him to conclude that the time provided was sufficient. It was quite possible, however, that his hon. and gallant friend might be right, and he would undertake to make further inquiries into the matter. He thought himself the work could be well done, without any difficulty, in the time provided. With regard to the five

days he suggested, he would point out that for all practical purposes the work he referred to would be done to a very large extent from the lists as deposited, but it might be desirable to make arrangements to have the lists printed at an earlier date. The difficulty was one of printing, not of revision. He would undertake to make further inquiry if his hon. and gallant friend did not press the matter now.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said, as he understood it, the Amendment aimed at accelerating the publication of the lists. He thought that the Attorney-General forgot, when he said there was plenty of time, that in London a large number of service and lodger voters were not included in the old municipal franchise. He was prepared to accept the undertaking of the Government that something would be done to accelerate the publication of the lists, and he hoped that when they were published they would be found to be correct and properly revised.

MR. STUART said that after the lists were considered and altered by the revising barristers they were re-set altogether, and a large expense was incurred. The matter had often been brought to his notice, and he had been asked to bring it before the Committee in order to see whether some arrangement could not be come to to avoid the re-setting of the whole lists.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER thought there was a great deal in the suggestion of the hon. Member for Shoreditch. He had often heard it stated that after the lists had been set up in the first instance they were altered again and again, at great expense. The points that had been mentioned would receive consideration.

MR. LOUGH said that the Attorney-General had admitted that Sub-section (3) was very unsatisfactory, and he thought they ought not to allow it to stand in the Bill unless they got some definite promise about it. With reference to the suggestion of the hon. Member for Shoreditch, London lost about £10,000 a year by having the lists which were already in type set up again. That loss should be avoided, and one list should be available for all purposes. He did not see why

Sir Richard Webster.

the two lists should not come into operation on the same day.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said they had no power in the Bill to alter the day on which the Parliamentary lists were published.

MR. LOUGH submitted that, as the overseers who prepared the lists would be officers of the borough council, it would be within their power to enact that the list, for all purposes, should come into operation on a certain date; otherwise they would have double printing and much waste.

*COLONEL HUGHES said the revision would undoubtedly be very heavy, but that difficulty might be met by having a sufficient number of revising barristers. Under the present system there might be a parliamentary election in November or December, which would be on the old list, although there was a new list printed and brought up to date. Another difficulty was that the clause stated that the town clerk was to publish the list, but the town clerk would have to be elected by the council.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER pointed out that that was just one of the matters to be dealt with under the transitory provisions in Clause 21.

MR. LOUGH said he thought the point ought to be dealt with now. He could not understand why the lists should not come into operation on the same date.

THE CHAIRMAN: You cannot, by this Bill, alter the law with reference to Parliamentary elections. It is not within the scope of this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

An amendment made.

MR. BOUSFIELD moved—

"In Clause 3, page 2, line 28, to leave out from 'shall' to 'be' in line 29, and insert 'after the appointed day.'"

He said that the sub-section provided that in each year after 1899, that was in 1900, the lists should be printed and signed by the town clerk before the 20th of October, but on that date there would not be a town clerk. Of course, under

Section 21 provision might be made for 1900. The clause was widely misunderstood outside the House, and he suggested that it would be better to amend it by saying each year after the appointed day.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said that 1900 would be dealt with under Section 21.

MR. STUART thought there was a good deal to be said for the Amendment on the ground that the appointed day would undoubtedly in some instances not take place until after November 1st, 1900. It would be necessary to say that if the new authority was not constituted the list should be drawn up by the old authority, if it existed. He thought something would have to be put at the end of the clause to show what was to be done if the new body was not constituted.

*COLONEL HUGHES said he quite appreciated that for 1900 arrangements would be made under Section 21, and that, therefore, the clause must refer to some year after 1900, and either "after the appointed day" or "every year after 1900" should be put in; but to say that Section 21 would provide for 1900, and then in Section 3 to say that the town clerk might do something also in 1900, seemed a contradiction.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he was quite willing, if the hon. Member would move, to leave out 1899 and insert 1900.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question—

"That '1899' be left out in order to insert '1900'."

put and agreed to.

MR. FREDERICK COOK (Lambeth, Kennington) who had on the Paper the following Amendment—

"In Clause 3, page 2, line 29, to leave out 'twentieth' and insert 'first.'"

—said it was very important that more time should be given to correct the lists. There were two objects mentioned in the Bill. One was to set up a number of municipalities and to give them greater power and dignity, and the other was to increase the interest of the people themselves in

the municipalities; and unless the various associations had time to revise the lists he did not think the people would go to the trouble to poll. However, as the Attorney-General had promised to look into the matter, he did not propose to move the Amendment.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS moved—

"In Clause 3, page 2, line 31, to leave out 'parochial' and insert 'borough.'"

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he was not quite certain whether the word "borough" was preferable to "parochial." If the hon. Member withdrew his Amendment he would move to insert after "register" the words "for the purpose of a borough election."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER moved—

After "register" to insert for the purpose of a borough election."

Amendment agreed to.

Question—

"That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill." put and agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

MR. STUART moved—

"In Clause 4, page 2, line 36, after 'appointed day' to insert, 'which shall be the same in all cases.'"

He said the object of the Amendment was to secure that the Act should come into operation all over London at the same time, otherwise they would have different forms of government and different powers in different parts of the metropolis for a very extensive period. There would have to be local investigations and perhaps Petitions, which in some cases might have to come before Parliament, and considerable opposition might arise; and therefore in some places the appointed day might be a year, or perhaps two years, from the appointed day in other places.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said that that appeared sufficiently clear in Clause 76, which said that for the purposes of the Act the appointed day should be the day on which the members of the borough councils came into office. It was undesirable to raise the point now.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. LOUGH moved—

"In Clause 4, page 2, line 35, after 'board,' to insert 'and every body of overseers and other bodies discharging the duties of overseers as regards the making and collection of the rates.'"

SIR R. B. FINLAY submitted that a clause which dealt with the transfers to borough councils of powers from vestries and other local bodies was not the place to move an Amendment dealing with overseers, which could be dealt with in Clause 11.

Mr. LOUGH said the object of the clause was to do away with these local bodies and to transfer their duties to the new councils. The duties of the vestries included the duties of overseers.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Clause 11 specifically deals with the appointment and duties of overseers. That is the proper clause on which to raise the point.

Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS understood that there had been considerable difficulty in some cases in regard to the custody of documents. He suggested that some words should be added to the clause to make it clear as to who should have the custody of the documents.

SIR R. B. FINLAY hoped that his hon. friend would not press his Amendment, as it was quite unnecessary.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. LOUGH moved the following Amendment—

"In Clause 4, page 3, lines 1 and 2, to leave out the words 'and the clerk of the council shall be called the town clerk.'"

He thought it was obvious that these boroughs would be different from the municipalities, and that a better title would be "borough clerk."

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: We have determined that the precedent of the Municipal Corporations Act should be followed, and I see no reason why we should depart from the general line of policy adopted. It seems to me that, as we have put these boroughs in precisely an analogous position to the provincial boroughs, we should adopt the name so well and honourably identified with the clerks of the boroughs.

Amendment negatived.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE moved the following Amendment—

"In Clause 4, page 3, line 3, to omit the words: 'Provided that in the case of borrowing powers so transferred the sanction of the Local Government Board shall be substituted for the sanction of the London County Council.'"

In the days of the Metropolitan Board of Works the Treasury promoted the Finance Bill of the Board, which included loans to various vestries. Since the institution of the London County Council these loans had been made by the London County Council. At every conference at which the future government had been considered there was some difference of opinion on this question among the local authorities; but at every one of these conferences there was a majority in favour of leaving the question of finance with the London County Council. The London County Council had always had upon it financial authorities of the very highest experience, and in this respect it had the confidence of every one in London. On the conservative principle of leaving well alone, he thought that the London County Council should continue to finance the local authorities. The Royal Commission presided over by the right hon. Member for Bodmin recommended that the matter should be left as it at present stood. The proposal of the Government was to reverse matters. If that were done it would undoubtedly cause a greater cost in obtaining loans than at present. It could not be said that the London County Council had been lax in regard to the matter of loans. It had exercised effective supervision on the character of these loans, and it had trained up a financial staff which had now the confidence of all local bodies in London. The most highly conservative vestries had, indeed, made strong remonstrances against this change. He could not conceive why this change had been proposed, unless the Government had been scared at the mere name of the London County Council. The Amendment had the support of many members on the Government side of the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The result of the Amendment of the right hon. Baronet would be to leave in the hands of the London County Council practically absolute control over the borrowing powers of the new boroughs created by

the Bill. I am one of those who think that the London County Council has managed extremely well the financial business in connection with the metropolitan loans entrusted to it. I hope to conciliate all parties, and in what I have to say in defence of the view that the London County Council ought not to have absolute control in finance over these new boroughs, it must not be supposed that I desire to make any reflection on that body. But it is evident that if the municipalities are to be supreme and unfettered within their own sphere of action they must have as unfettered powers of borrowing as are possessed by the other municipalities in the country. That seems to me to be axiomatic. If you allow the London County Council the powers which it already exercises—well as they have been exercised—it would always be in the power of the London County Council to control all the actions of these municipalities which are dependent on their power to borrow money. The Committee will feel that it would be entirely antagonistic to the fundamental principle of the Bill to put these municipalities entirely under the control of the County Council. I therefore cannot accept the Amendment of the right hon. Baronet. At the same time I am fully alive to the importance of the arguments addressed to the House on the second reading of the Bill by him and, amongst others, the hon. Member for Islington. They hold that it is very important, for financial reasons, that as far as possible the debt of London should be a consolidated debt, to be contracted by a single body, having as its security a single mass of property. It seems to me that these two views could be reconciled if we left it to the London County Council in the first instance to make the loan, and only gave the local bodies the power of going outside the London County Council if the London County Council had attached conditions to that loan or had forbidden it. The power of the London County Council would still remain unimpaired. If the time should ever come, as I hope it will never come, when by the mutations of public, party, and municipal life, there shall ever be a contest, a controversy, between one of these new municipalities and the central authority over some scheme of local improvement; if the

London County Council should attempt in an evil moment to abuse the great powers they have hitherto so admirably employed, the local authority should have the power to pass on one side, and appeal to some independent tribunal to decide whether the loan it desired should be granted or not, and under what conditions. There are Amendments I believe on the paper, in the name of my hon. friend, which carry out in the main the view which I have been endeavouring to express to the Committee. Perhaps the best form of words would be to make the paragraph read as follows:—

“ Provided that if the London County Council refuse their sanction to a loan, or attach conditions to their sanction, an appeal shall lie to the Local Government Board, whose decision shall be final.”

That generally, I think, coincides with the view expressed by one or two of my hon. friends. It leaves the London County Council, probably for all time, with the control of the great metropolitan debt, but provides that in case these powers under changed circumstances should be abused, the local authority should not thereby suffer, but should retain the independent power of borrowing possessed by all the sister municipalities in the kingdom.

*MR. COHEN thanked his right hon. friend for the just and generous tribute he had paid to the way in which the London County Council had managed its finances. He thanked him also for the generous way in which he wished to meet the views of the members of the London County Council who shared the opinion that it was as much for the advantage of the borrowing bodies as for that of the ratepayers of London, that the control of the London County Council should continue. At the same time he did not think the friends of the London County Council need further resist the proposal of his right hon. friend, because he believed that the provision he had made would result in the London County Council having control nearly as complete as it was at this moment. He doubted, however, whether the phrase in reference to conditions made by the London County Council might not lead to complications. If the Committee would allow him, he might say that since the London County Council had been in existence, three and a-half millions had been granted in loans, and that

MR. LOUGH moved—

"In Clause 4, page 2, line 35, after 'board,' to insert 'and every body of overseers and other bodies discharging the duties of overseers as regards the making and collection of the rates.'"

SIR R. B. FINLAY submitted that a clause which dealt with the transfers to borough councils of powers from vestries and other local bodies was not the place to move an Amendment dealing with overseers, which could be dealt with in Clause 11.

MR. LOUGH said the object of the clause was to do away with these local bodies and to transfer their duties to the new councils. The duties of the vestries included the duties of overseers.

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SIR R. B. FINLAY hoped that his hon. friend would not press his Amendment, as it was quite unnecessary.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH moved the following Amendment—

"In Clause 4, page 3, lines 1 and 2, to leave out the words 'and the clerk of the council shall be called the town clerk.'"

He thought it was obvious that these boroughs would be different from the municipalities, and that a better title would be "borough clerk."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We have determined that the precedent of the Municipal Corporations Act should be followed, and I see no reason why we should depart from the general line of policy adopted. It seems to me that, as we have put these boroughs in precisely an analogous position to the provincial boroughs, we should adopt the name so well and honourably identified with the clerks of the boroughs.

Amendment negatived.

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London County Council should attempt in an evil moment to abuse the great powers they have hitherto so admirably employed, the local authority should have the power to pass on one side, and appeal to some independent tribunal to decide whether the loan it desired should be granted or not, and under what conditions. There are Amendments I believe on the paper, in the name of my hon. friend, which carry out in the main the view which I have been endeavouring to express to the Committee. Perhaps the best form of words would be to make the paragraph read as follows:—

“Provided that if the London County Council refuse their sanction to a loan, or attach conditions to their sanction, an appeal shall lie to the Local Government Board, whose decision shall be final.”

That generally, I think, coincides with the view expressed by one or two of my hon. friends. It leaves the London County Council, probably for all time, with the control of the great metropolitan debt, but provides that in case these powers under changed circumstances should be abused, the local authority should not thereby suffer, but should retain the independent power of borrowing possessed by all the sister municipalities in the kingdom.

*MR. COHEN thanked his right hon. friend for the just and generous tribute he had paid to the way in which the London County Council had managed its finances. He thanked him also for the generous way in which he wished to meet the views of the members of the London County Council who shared the opinion that it was as much for the advantage of the borrowing bodies as for that of the ratepayers of London, that the control of the London County Council should continue. At the same time he did not think the friends of the London County Council need further resist the proposal of his right hon. friend, because he believed that the provision he had made would result in the London County Council having control nearly as complete as it was at this moment. He doubted, however, whether the phrase in reference to conditions made by the London County Council might not lead to complications. If the Committee would allow him, he might say that since the London County Council had been in existence, three and a-half millions had been granted in loans, and that

MR. LOUGH said there appeared to be a general idea that the Amendment in its present form would not entirely meet with approval, and he would therefore withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

It being midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress: to sit again To-morrow.

SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee; Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

SOLICITORS BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee, and reported, as amended; to be considered To-morrow.

FLOODS PREVENTION.

Bill to give further powers to County Councils with a view to the Prevention of Floods and other damage arising from Rivers or Watercourses, ordered to be brought in by Colonel Milward, Sir John Dorington, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Mr Humphreys-Owen, Mr. Hobhouse, and Mr. Bill.

FLOODS PREVENTION BILL.

"To give further powers to County Councils with a view to the Prevention of Floods and other damage arising from Rivers or Watercourses," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 181.]

Adjourned at ten minutes after
Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Tuesday, 9th May 1899.*ENDOWED SCHOOLS ACT, 1869, AND
AMENDING ACTS (SAINT PAUL'S
SCHOOLS, LONDON).

HER MAJESTY'S Answer to the Address of the 24th of March last, delivered by the Lord Steward (E. Pembroke and Montgomery), and read as follows, viz.:

I have received your Address praying that I will withhold my Assent to the Scheme for the management of St. Paul's Schools in London. I will comply with your advice.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

OWEN'S COLLEGE MANCHESTER BILL.
[Lords.]

Presented (pursuant to leave given yesterday); read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners.

BROOKES PARK (LONDONDERRY)
BILL. [Lords.]

Presented (pursuant to leave given yesterday), and read 1^a.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the examiners that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:

PILOTAGE PROVISIONAL ORDER.

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDER (No. 9). [Lords.]

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

PORT TALBOT RAILWAY AND DOCKS
BILL. [Lords.]

Committee to meet to-morrow.

VOL. LXXI. FOURTH SERIES.

TRANVAAL MORTGAGE LOAN AND
FINANCE COMPANY BILL. [Lords.]

Committee to meet on Monday next.

HUMBER CONSERVANCY BILL. [Lords.]

The Queen's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee with amendments.

NEWHAVEN AND SEAFORD WATER
BOARD BILL. [Lords.]

Report from the Select Committee, That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES
BILL.

Report from the Select Committee (with the proceedings of the Committee) made, and to be printed. (No. 82.) Bill reported with amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House, and to be printed as amended. [No. 83.]

LOUGHBOROUGH GAS BILL. [Lords.]

Report from the Select Committee, That the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill; ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed: the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed: the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMP-
STEAD RAILWAY BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed: the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

NORTH-WEST LONDON RAILWAY
BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed.

BRIGG URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed.

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MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

GLASGOW CORPORATION (TRAMWAYS, ETC.) BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS AND WATER) BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

STOCKTON AND MIDDLESBROUGH WATER BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

TOTLAND WATER BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a: An amendment made: Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

LONDON HOSPITAL BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

LIVERPOOL OVERHEAD RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

GOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

GLASGOW DISTRICT SUBWAY BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

LOUGHBOROUGH AND SHEEPSED RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Commons amendments considered, and agreed to.

MARYPORT HARBOUR BILL [Lords].

Report from the Committee of Selection, that the Lord Ventry be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee in the place of the Lord Newton; read, and agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 9) BILL [Lords].

To be read 2^a on Friday next.

PILOTAGE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

To be read 2^a on Friday next: (The Earl of Dudley).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Fifteenth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts: Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION BOARD (IRELAND).

Annual Report for 1898.

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898.

General regulations for the management and discipline of certified inebriate reformatories in Ireland;

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITIONS.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (BOROUGH FUNDS ACT), 1872.

Petitions for amendment of; of Corporation of Lincoln — and of Urban District Council of Acton — Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Petition in favour of the establishment of a Roman Catholic University in Ireland; of the Clergy and Laity of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.

Select Committee to meet on Monday next, at a quarter before Four o'clock: Leave given to the Committee to report from time to time.

OYSTERS BILL [Lords].

A Bill for the protection of public health against dangers arising from the consumption of unwholesome oysters—Was presented by the Lord Harris; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Thursday, the 18th inst. (No. 84.)

MONEY-LENDING BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Standing Committee with further amendments: The Report of the amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received on Friday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 85.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Standing Committee with further amendments: The Report of the amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received on Friday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 86.)

PARISH COUNCILLORS (TENURE OF OFFICE) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS' BILL.
COMMITTEE.

House in Committee (according to order).

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (the Earl of HALSBURY): I presume the noble Lord in charge of this Bill intends in the Standing Committee to bring it into conformity with the Yorkshire Bill, which he said was the one he was following.

LORD HENEAGE: I have no intention myself to move any Amendments, but I shall be glad to consider any that the noble and learned Lord may suggest.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Then I reserve what I have to say till the Standing Committee.

Bill reported without amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT (1889) EXTENSION BILL.

SECOND READING.

LORD THRING: My Lords, very few words will be necessary from me to explain the object of this Bill. In 1889 a Bill called the "Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act" was passed, the object of it being to require medical men in attendance on sick persons suffering from any infectious disease to notify the same to the medical officer of health. The Bill was compulsory in London, but required to be adopted in the provinces. It has been adopted with great advantage; but there is a small gap where the Bill has not been adopted, and the measure which I am now asking your Lordships to read a second time is intended to fill up that gap, and make the Act of 1889 universal throughout England. The Bill has passed through the House of Commons without opposition, and is approved by the Local Government Board, and therefore I have no hesitation in asking your Lordships to give it a second reading.

Moved—

"That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(Lord Thring.)

*LORD HARRIS: The Local Government Board have no objection whatever to this Bill.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

QUESTION.

POST OFFICE AT SALONIKA.

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether any further steps have been taken towards the establishment of a British post-office at Salonika. This is a small matter that has occupied the attention of the Govern-

ment for some considerable time, and I should not be surprised to learn that it had formed the subject of that animated correspondence with the Treasury to which the noble Marquess referred the other day. Owing to the somewhat imperfect—I will use no stronger term—arrangements of the Turkish postal system, foreign Governments are now in the habit of providing post-offices of their own in large Turkish towns. Although it is, theoretically, necessary to obtain the permission of the Turkish Government to establish these offices, it has frequently been found needful to establish such offices first, and to ask for permission afterwards. These establishments are not maintained for the purpose of producing revenue, but in order that they may afford some convenience to the foreign commercial colonies which are established in these towns, and with the object of encouraging foreign trade. There is an important British colony in Salonika, which is placed at a considerable disadvantage commercially owing to the absence of a post-office. The British residents have either to make use of the Turkish post-office, in which contingency they would never receive any letters at all, or depend upon the favour of those foreign Governments who have post-offices of their own. The establishment of a British post-office at Salonika has been strongly recommended by the Consul-General of Salonika, it has been petitioned for by the British Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople, and the advisability of establishing it has been urged by our Embassy at Constantinople. I conceive that the only obstacle to the establishment of a British post office there is the Treasury, and I hope the Postmaster-General will assure us that the scruples of the Treasury have been overcome, and that the small sum necessary for this modest undertaking will be forthcoming very soon.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (the DUKE of NORFOLK): My Lords, I am glad to be able to assure the noble Lord that the conditions are now arranged under which I trust very shortly to provide a British post-office at Salonika, and I am now engaged in the personal question of appointing a postmaster.

House adjourned at forty-five minutes after Five of the clock, to Friday next, at fifteen minutes after Ten of the clock.

Lord Newton.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 9th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

BRISTOL FLOODS PREVENTION BILL. [Lords.]

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

EAST LONDON WATER BILL.

As amended, to be considered upon Friday.

SHIREBROOK AND DISTRICT GAS BILL.

As amended, considered ; An Amendment made ; Bill to be read the third time.

WALLASEY TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENTS BILL. [Lords.]

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

WEST MIDDLESEX WATER BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

ST. ALBAN'S GAS BILL. [Lords.]

Read a second time, and committed.

BRADFORD TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL (by Order).

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bradford Tramways and Improvement Bill to especially consider the Clauses of this Bill authorising the inclosure of any part of Baildon

Moor, and to report whether, having regard to the provisions of The Commons Act, 1876, and to the increase of the population in the neighbourhood, such inclosure is expedient.—(Sir Charles Dilke.)

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY BILL.

Order [14th February] referring the London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway Bill to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills read, and discharged :—Bill withdrawn.—(Dr. Farquharson).

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (HARROW WEALD) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY v. GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY.

A Petition of Richard Hill Dawe for leave to the proper officer of the House to attend the sitting of the Railway and Canal Commission to produce the deposited plans in relation to the Grimsby Docks Act, 1845, and the Great Northern Railway Amendment Bill (No. 2), 1851.

Leave given to the proper officer to attend accordingly.—(Dr. Farquharson.)

LEITH HARBOUR AND DOCKS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL. [Lords.]

Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY BILL. [Lords.]

Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

KINGSCOURT, KEADY, AND ARMAGH RAILWAY BILL.

Reported [Preamble not proved] ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 16).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888, relating to Broadstairs, Christchurch, and district, Guildford (Extension), Newport (Isle of Wight), Sandown and Shanklin, and Westgate and Birchington, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hanbury.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 16) BILL.

“To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Broadstairs, Christchurch and district, Guildford (Extension), Newport (Isle of Wight), Sandown and Shanklin, and Westgate and Birchington,” presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 182.]

PETITIONS.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872.

Petitions for alteration of Law ;—From Acton ;—and, Lincoln ; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Leicester, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Ullapool, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

MIDWIFERY PRACTITIONERS.

Petition of the Midwives' Society, for legislation ; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Reservoir ;—Netherseal ;—Wells Way ;—Tynning ;—Clandown ;—Writhlington ;—Huish ;—Camerton New ;—Camerton Old ;—Foxcote ;—Kilmersdon ;—Ludlows ;—and, Bentinck and Teversal Collieries ; to lie upon the Table.

OWLER, ANN.

Petition of George Owler, for inquiry into the cause of her death ; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Brighton, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Auckland, against ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Stockport (two) ;—Haverton Hill ;—and, Bolton ; to lie upon the Table.

TEMPERANCE REFORM (THREEFOLD OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Aberdeen ;—and, Chirnside ; to lie upon the Table.

VACCINATION ACTS 1867 AND 1898.

Petitions for alteration of Law ;—From Oldham ;—and, St. Mary, Islington ; to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Petition of the Mining Association of Great Britain, against ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.**HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).**

Copy presented,—of Fifteenth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House :—

TEMPORARY LAWS.

Register of Temporary Laws for the Fifth Session, Twenty-sixth Parliament, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, pursuant to Report of the Select Committee on Expiring Laws in Session 1866 ; to be printed. [No. 186.]

RAILWAYS IN IRELAND (STATE ADVANCES).

Return ordered, "of the total amount of money advanced by the State by loan or grant for the construction of railways in Ireland, showing the separate amounts advanced on the different lines now in the possession of the existing companies ; the amount of principal and interest repaid by railway companies to the Treasury, segregated amongst the existing companies ; the net amount of the baronial guarantees paid by each Irish county to railway companies, any recoupment made by the Treasury being deducted from the gross amount ; the amount presented and passed for this purpose during the year 1898, and the companies to whom it was paid."—(*Mr. Fidd.*)

PUBLIC BILLS.**NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CHURCHES BILL [Lords].**

Read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 183.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Bill to amend the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Alexander Cross, Sir Walter Foster, Sir Charles Cameron, Sir William Priestley, Sir William Arrol, Dr. Farquharson, and Mr. Nicol.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES ACTS AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Baths and Washhouses Acts, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bigwood and Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

"To amend the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894," presented, and

read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 14th June, and to be printed. [Bill 184.]

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Baths and Washhouses Acts," presented, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 185.]

QUESTIONS.

IRISH RAILWAY RATES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF FISH.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the last report of the Congested Districts Board, in which it appears that the Board paid the Arran fishermen for spring mackerel £2,861, and to railway and steamship companies for freight £2,676 ; to Cleggan fishermen £2,516, and for freight of same to railways £1,884 ; to Doonloghan fishermen £191, and to railway companies for freight of same £162 ; whether he would state the weight of fish carried in each case, and the charge per ton per mile ; and what steps the Congested Districts Board propose to take to secure reasonable freights for the haulage of fish from the West of Ireland.

*THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) : The figures mentioned in the question are correctly quoted from the last report of the Congested Districts Board, but it is necessary to observe that market charges and salesmen's commission are included in the amounts under the head of freights. I am afraid I cannot give the freight charges per ton per mile, but a statement of the through rates per ton to English markets has been forwarded to the hon. Member for his information. The Congested Districts Board having been in communication with the carrying companies on the subject of a reduction in the rates, the companies have recently agreed to equalise the charges for one and three ton consignments this season. The Galway Steamboat Company have made a reduction of about 14 per cent. in their charges.

MR. FIELD : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that over 47,000 tons of fish were landed on the Irish coasts in 1898, exclusive of crabs, lobsters, and oysters ; and that of this amount only 14,364 tons, inclusive of crabs, lobsters, and oysters, were carried by the Irish railways in 1898 ; and, considering that more than two-thirds of the fish landed on the Irish coasts have not been conveyed to market by Irish railways, whether he will direct the inspectors of Irish fisheries to make inquiry at the different Irish fishing ports into the causes which prevented the sending to market by railways of such a large proportion of the fish landed on the Irish coasts, and issue a return of the result of the inquiry.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR : The figures quoted in the first paragraph are taken from a return recently laid before Parliament. As regards the second paragraph, it is the fact that steamers are mainly employed in the conveyance to England of fish caught off the Irish coasts. The reasons for the adoption of this mode of transit are already well known, and it is unnecessary to make the further inquiry suggested in the question. These reasons may be stated briefly as follows : Carriage by sea is cheaper than by land and sea combined ; the boxes in which the fish are packed receive less handling than they would if sent partly by rail and partly by sea ; the fish are more easily kept cool in the hold of a steamer, and consequently they reach England in better condition.

IRISH POLICE FORCES.

MR. FIELD : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether, in view of the serious difference which exists in the constitution, pay, promotion, and local control of the Irish Metropolitan Police and the Irish Constabulary, as compared with any other police force in the three kingdoms, a Commission will be appointed to inquire into and report upon the different systems.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR : It is not proposed to appoint a Commission for the purposes indicated in this question.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY CADETS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether an examination is about to be held for Royal Irish Constabulary cadets; how many vacancies for the position of district inspector are to be so filled; whether each appointment thus made stops four promotions in the rank and file, those of head constable, sergeant, acting-sergeant, and constable; how long it is necessary for a cadet to serve before being placed in charge of a district; and what has been the average period of service of head constables promoted to that position; and in what respect the qualifications of a cadet fit him for precedence.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The examination for cadetships will take place on the 29th inst. The candidates are nominated for places, but the vacancies have not yet arisen. Gentlemen successful at this examination will only fill half the vacancies as they occur. No promotions to which head constables, sergeants, acting sergeants, and constables are entitled, under the existing regulations, will be stopped by the appointments above referred to. A cadet usually undergoes five or six months' instruction before he is considered fit to be placed in charge of a district. The average period of service of the twenty-one head constables last promoted is twenty-three years ten months. Cadets, who are highly educated and pass a severe competitive examination, are soon fitted for the position of district inspector, and after a few years' experience become officers of high efficiency.

ARMAGH AND DOWN LAND COMMISSION COURTS.

MR. M'GHEE (Louth, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the applications to fix fair rent in the counties of Armagh and Down, whether he will state the number of such applications made to the county court judge, and also the number made to the Land Commission Court in each county since the 1st day of May 1898, and also the number disposed of by either court in each county.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The number of fair rent applications received by the Land Commissioners in the period men-

tioned was 2,074 from the County Armagh (inclusive of four cases transferred from the Civil Bill Court) and 1,418 from the County Down. The number of applications disposed of by the Commissioners in the same period was 2,258 cases from Armagh, and 1,606 from Down. As regards applications to Civil Bill Courts, the number received in Armagh was six, and the number disposed of in that county two, the other four cases having been transferred to the Land Commission. No applications were received or disposed of by the Civil Bill Court in Down within the period stated.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION; APPEALS.

MR. M'GHEE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he will state the number of sittings of the Chief Land Commission held at Armagh and Belfast respectively since 1st January, 1898: And, at how many of these sittings at Belfast and Armagh respectively Mr. Commissioner Morrough O'Brien was a member of the Commission sitting there.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Land Commission Court has sat twice at Armagh and five times at Belfast since the 1st January, 1898. The latter paragraph of the question appears intended to mark an invidious distinction between different Members of the Land Commission and the Commissioners decline, and I think properly decline, to answer it.

HOWTH FISHERIES.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin Co., North): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to his statement that the Howth fishermen, who have been complaining of the destruction of their nets and lines by steam trawlers, were unable to give any clue to the detection of the offenders, whether he has subsequently ascertained that the Fishery Commissioners were informed that on Tuesday, the 25th March, a trawler, named the *Peter Johnson*, registered at Aberdeen, deliberately ran into and destroyed lines to the value of £6; if so, whether any inquiry has been made into the truth of this statement; and, if not, will he explain on what grounds? and whether any action will be taken now in this case either by the Fishery Commissioners or by the Government.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am informed by the Inspectors of Fisheries that no trace can be found in the records of their Department of the receipt of the complaint referred to in the question, nor was any such complaint made to the Coastguard at Howth and Baldoyle. The Coastguard have been instructed to make local inquiry into the matter.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN MONAGHAN.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, how much of the grant of £40,000, voted by Parliament in 1890 for the erection of labourers' cottages in Ireland, lies to the credit of the Monaghan District Council in the books of the Postmaster General; and will the amount still be available should the Monaghan District Council decide upon receiving a representation and adopt a scheme for the erection of two or more cottages.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The share of the grant lying to the credit of the Monaghan District Council is £205 0s. 4d., which sum will be available in reduction of any loan that the council may contract for the erection of labourers' cottages in the district. The amount could not, however, be issued in anticipation of the making of an improvement scheme.

IRISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is intended, in connection with the Board of Agriculture and Industries Bill, to reconstitute the Irish Fishery Board, and enable it to accomplish similar good results which were obtained under a different system of management and endowment by the Scotch Fishery Board. I beg at the same time to ask whether it is intended to establish and endow a veterinary college in Dublin in connection with the Board of Agriculture and Industries Bill.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: With respect to these questions, I stated yesterday, when introducing the Measure, that it was proposed to transfer the powers and duties of the Fishery Inspectors to the new department, and that the Bill provided for the expenditure of a capital sum on the Royal Veterinary College in

Dublin. For further details I must ask the hon. Member to await the circulation of the Bill which, I hope, will be in the hands of hon. members to-morrow.

PAY OF DISTRICT INSPECTORS IN THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the pay of senior district inspectors in the Royal Irish Constabulary is £330 a year, whilst the pay of senior head constables is but £104 a year; whether each senior district inspector receives an annual allowance of £50 for the keep of a horse, £45 for a servant, and £40 for lodging expenses, whilst a senior head constable receives but £2 10s. a year as a contribution towards his lodgings; whether an ordinary constable in many English towns is paid on a higher scale of remuneration than a head constable in the Royal Irish Constabulary receives; and, as the Irish head constable is next in rank to the district inspector and has frequently to perform the higher duties, will anything be done to remove the disparity existing in regard to their respective salaries.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The pay of a first-class district inspector of the Constabulary is at the rate of £300 per annum. This rate can only be attained after many years' service. The salary of a district inspector of the third class is £125, and of a senior head constable £104 a year. The various allowances to officers and head constables will be found fully set forth in the Estimates. I have no official information as to the rates of pay in the English force, but I doubt whether the statement in the third paragraph is correct. There is no disparity between the salaries of a head constable and district inspector not justified by differences of position and duties, and the answer to the last paragraph is in the negative.

IRISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

MR. ARTHUR MOORE (London-derry): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, what is to be the annual income of the proposed Board of Agriculture, whether this income includes the present income of the Congested Districts Board, and what fresh charge is made on imperial funds for the proposed Department of Agriculture and Industries.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: No income is provided for the proposed Agricultural Board as distinguished from the Department. The income of the Congested Districts Board is not affected by the Bill. There will be a fresh charge on imperial funds in connection with the establishment of the new Department amounting to £78,000 a year, exclusive of any fresh charge that may arise from the establishment of the Department and the exercise by it of the powers and duties proposed to be transferred to it.

CONVOCATION.

MR. CHANNING (Northampton, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government have sanctioned the issue of writs that will enable the two Convocations of Canterbury and York to sit together in future; and whether there is any precedent for such a course since the reign of King Henry VIII.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): There is no truth in the rumour which the hon. Member has heard, and to which he has given expression in the first paragraph of his question.

ASCENSION DAY.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he intends to move the usual resolution this year, under which the numerous and important Committees of the House now sitting would be precluded from meeting before two of the clock on Thursday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, I intend to follow the immemorial practice.

SIR JOHN LENG: Will it be the first business to-morrow?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes.

APPRENTICES ON BRITISH VESSELS.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to a recent case in which one of the apprentices on board a British ship died at Diego, and to the correspondence that has passed between the Board of Trade and the late captain

and officers of that ship; whether he has considered the possibility of a captain in a foreign port exercising his authority to work members of the crew and young apprentices excessive hours in discharging cargo and supplementary duties; and whether, having regard to the conditions of climate in the tropics and of apprenticeship on British vessels, he will introduce legislation or make regulations under existing Statutes to limit the hours of labour in discharge of cargo at foreign ports to be worked by apprentices who are under the factory age standard, and who correspond in that regard to young persons who come under the provisions of the Factory Act.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. RITCHIE, Croydon): Yes, Sir, my attention has been called to the case to which my honourable friend refers, in which an apprentice (Mr. R. King), of the *Khyber*, died of fever in the hospital at Diego Suarez. The Board of Trade have been in communication with the owners of the vessel, and have obtained statements from the master, officers, and several of the crew, including the apprentices. It appears to be usual at a port like Diego (where labour is scarce) to employ the crew and apprentices in discharging cargo, the lightest work being allotted to the apprentices. From all I can learn, Mr. King was not in any way ill-treated, but his work was, no doubt, trying, and he does not appear to have been sufficiently robust to bear the strain of it in a hot climate. I greatly regret the sad occurrence, but the Board of Trade have no power under existing Statutes to make regulations limiting the hours of labour of ship apprentices, and I am not prepared to propose legislation on the subject. I may mention that Mr. King was sixteen years of age, and, as my honourable friend is aware, a certificate of fitness under the Factory Acts is only required in the case of young persons under sixteen.

TWERTON LEVEL CROSSING.

*MR. BARLOW (Frome, Somerset): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the facts that the level crossing over the Great Western Railway at Twerton, near to Bath, is dangerous, from its being an extensively used channel of communication between two populous districts; that a large number of

express trains pass daily, several of them without stopping at Bath, at high rates of speed; and that the parish council, the county coroner, and the coroner's jury have all concurred in this opinion, but that the Great Western Railway Company, though frequently approached, have always refused to construct a footbridge at this point, the Board of Trade have power to compel the railway company to erect a footbridge; and, if not, whether the Government will seek to obtain such power.

MR. RITCHIE: No, Sir, the Board of Trade have no power to order the company to erect a footbridge, and I am not prepared to propose legislation to confer such power upon the Department. The Board of Trade have had considerable correspondence with the company on the subject of the bridge, and I shall be happy to supply the honourable Member with a copy. It is worthy of observation that there are already two overbridges, each only 150 yards distant from this crossing.

RIFLE RANGES AND THE LEE-METFORD RIFLE.

MR. FREDERICK WILSON (Norfolk, Mid): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will grant a Return of the rifle ranges which have been closed to the firing of full-charge ammunition since the issue of the Lee-Metford rifle.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR** (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The Secretary of State will grant the Return.

WAR OFFICE—SALISBURY PLAIN.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War, whether he will inquire into the delay of the printing of the Supplementary Paper on the purchase of Salisbury Plain by Her Majesty's Government, ordered by this House in February last, and laid upon the Table on 12th April; and, whether he can inform the House when this Paper will be in the hands of Members.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Secretary of State has no control over the printing of Sessional Papers; but I understand that copies of the Return will be available to-morrow.

THE FOOT GUARDS.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War whether the three battalions of Foot Guards present in Hyde Park on 1st May were first for service; whether, out of a paper strength of 2,800, 1,500 were on parade; and how many men in the 3rd Grenadiers, 2nd Coldstreams, and 1st Scots had passed musketry, and how many are under six months' service.

MR. WYNDHAM: The 3rd Grenadiers and 2nd Coldstreams are first on the roster to relieve the 2nd Grenadiers and 1st Coldstream at Gibraltar. For active service the brigade of Guards regulates its own roster. In reply to the second paragraph of the Question, I cannot add to the statement given in answer to the hon. Member's Question of the 5th instant. In reply to the third paragraph, I must remind him of my statement in Debate on the 3rd March—namely, that information as to the services of men in particular battalions could only be given to hon. Members on condition that the battalion should not be publicly specified.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received from the School Board for London suggestions for an amended rule as to religious instruction in the Board's Industrial schools, which propose to practically apply the provisions of the Education Act of 1870, in lieu of the Industrials Schools Act, 1866; and, if he intends to sanction such alteration without legislative authority, or proposes to introduce a Bill to deprive children in Industrial Schools of denominational education.

***THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT** (SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): Rules for some of the London School Board's Industrial Schools are now under consideration. As I have stated before, I have no intention of approving any rules inconsistent with the principles of the Industrials Schools Acts; nor should I think of introducing a Bill such as that suggested by the hon. Member.

TREATMENT OF DEBTORS IN PRISON.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Secretary of

State for the Home Department, whether his attention has been called to a statement made by the Judge of the Birmingham County Court on 1st May, in connection with the circular which he had received from the Home Office, acquainting him with certain important alterations coming into operation that day on the treatment of debtor prisoners; whether debtors under the new rules, instead of being allowed to obtain their own food, drink, and bedding outside, will be restricted to the allowance of food prescribed for offenders of the first division who did not maintain themselves; whether they will now be required to work either at their own trade or profession, or at work of an industrial or manufacturing nature, and will receive their earnings subject to a deduction for the cost of maintenance and for the use of implements when furnished by the prison; whether a debtor will now be confined to his cell at all times except when at chapel or exercise, and will be allowed to receive only one visit and to write and receive only one letter per week; whether the Judge is correctly reported as having stated that it appeared to him that the alterations made the punishment much more severe, and brought debtors more closely to the status of criminals, and that he thought that twenty-one days under the new rules would be about equivalent to forty days under the old; is he aware that the Judge accordingly restricted the period of committal in cases of judgment summonses to twenty-one days; and, whether he will lay the Home Office circular referred to by the Judge upon the Table of the House.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have no reason to suppose that the County Court Judge's observations are incorrectly reported. There is no objection to laying a copy of the circular referred to on the Table, and this shall be done. I will also take this opportunity of laying on the Table the general circular respecting the rules made under the Prisons Act, 1898, which has been issued to the Chairmen of Petty Sessions.

VIVISECTION CERTIFICATES.

MR. PAULTON (Durham, Bishop Auckland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether certificates are issued to persons holding licences under the Cruelty to

Sir Charles Cameron.

Animals Act, 1876, allowing them to make experiments on living animals without anæsthetics except during the initial operation; whether during later stages of the experiment the holder of such certificate would be at liberty, should he so desire, to keep the animal alive without the further use of anæsthetics for the purpose of conducting observations and dissections; and whether he still adheres without qualification to his former official statement that certificates of exemption from the compulsory use of anæsthetics are only given for such operations as inoculations or hypodermic injections, which are of a comparatively painless character.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The nature of the certificates referred to would be more accurately described as follows. Under the terms of Section 3, Sub-section (3) of the Act certificates are granted, the effect of which is to exempt the holder from the obligation to kill the animal experimented upon before it recovers from the influence of the anæsthetic, when killing the animal would necessarily frustrate the object of the experiment, and provided that the animal is killed as soon as that object is attained. I would add, with reference to the second paragraph, that the sole use of the certificate is to authorise the keeping alive of the animal after the influence of the anæsthetic has passed off for the purpose of observation and study. I should certainly not allow any certificate involving dissections or painful operations without the fresh use of anæsthetics. The statement mentioned in the third paragraph, to which I adhere without qualification, had reference to a different class of certificates from those just dealt with, viz., certificates granting total exemption from the compulsory use of anæsthetics.

UNITED STATES HIGH LICENCE SYSTEM.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the financial results of the system known as the high licence system in the United States; and whether he will cause an investigation to be made by the officers of his Department, with the view of estimating approximately what would be the financial effect of the adoption in this country of the same or some

similar system, whereby the duties on licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be made to correspond more nearly to the value of such licences.

***THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER** (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): Evidence on this subject has been given before the Licensing Commission, and pending the Report of that Commission it is not desirable to institute independent inquiries as to particular points connected with the Licensing Laws.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Has the evidence to which the right hon. Gentleman refers been published?

***SIR M. HICKS-BEACH:** Yes, sir.

THE WINE DUTIES.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether, under the proposed re-arrangement of wine duties, still wine of over 42 degrees of proof spirit will bear a smaller duty if imported in bottle than if imported in the wood,

***SIR M. HICKS-BEACH:** It would be so in theory, but I do not think the point will arise in practice. It could only arise in the case of wine above 42 deg. and under 45 deg., as above 45 deg. it would be taxed as spirit, and the saving of 3d. or 6d. a gallon in duty would not cover the extra cost of importing in bottle.

FRENCH TRAWLERS IN RYE AND HYTHE BAYS.

***SIR EDWARD SASSOON** (Hythe): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if his attention has been drawn to the fact that on Thursday and Friday nights last no less than 30 French boats were trawling in Rye Bay and 16 in Hythe Bay, all within one and a-half miles of the shore; and, whether he will obtain the services of a gunboat to watch their operations, as otherwise, while the wind keeps in its present direction, they may continue their illegal encroachments.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative, and a gunboat has been ordered to proceed forthwith to the locality in question.

SCOTTISH EDUCATION GRANTS.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, having regard to the statement that a sum of £26,000 per annum was required to be advanced out of the Imperial Exchequer in order to keep up the Fee Grant to 12s. per head, and the estimate having since been proved to have been overstated by upwards of £20,000, a sum of only £5,000 being taken for the purpose in this year's Education Estimates, the Government will reconsider the amount of the grant payable to Scotland under the said Act.

***THE LORD ADVOCATE** (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): Owing to the contingent balances available for Fee Grant having been larger than was expected, the additional amount required from the Imperial Exchequer has not reached the estimate formed. But as the average attendance increases, the amount required will become larger, and the Government are not at present prepared to re-open the arrangement made in 1897.

MR. CALDWELL: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, if he can state the amount of Probate Duty Grant available for distribution for the years ending 31st March, 1898, and 31st March, 1899, under the provisions of The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1891, as amended by The Education and Local Taxation (Scotland) Act, 1892: and, what balance, if any, was applied as an addition to the fee grant during each of the said years.

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY:** For the year ended 31st March, 1898, the amount of Probate and Licence Duties available for distribution was £637,327. The balance of this amount applied as an addition to the fee grant was £16,202. In respect of the year ended 31st March, 1899, the final payments into the grant have not yet been received, but the last payment made brings the amount up to £620,000.

THE CONSTANTINOPLE MASSACRES OF 1896.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether compensation has yet been obtained from the Porte for the losses sustained by British subjects at Constantinople during the massacre of August, 1896.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. ST. JOHN BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I regret to say that no compensation has as yet been obtained for the sufferers of any nationality, but the subject has not been lost sight of.

THE YANG-TSZE VALLEY.

MR. LAMBERT (Devon, South Molton): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether, in the exchange of Notes between Russia and the United Kingdom, the Basin of the Yang-tsze has been defined; and, if not, do the Government intend to define it; whether the Government claims the same rights in the Yang-tsze Basin as Russia claims north of the Great Wall; and, whether the treaty rights of the United Kingdom under the treaty of Tien-tsin are in any way abrogated to the north of the Great Wall in China.

*MR. BRODRICK: The Yang-tsze Basin has been defined as the provinces adjoining the Yang-tsze river, and Ho-nan and Chekiang. I am unable to state what the exact claims of Russia may be as regards Manchuria. What Her Majesty's Government claim as regards the Yang-tsze Valley is that no portion of the territory shall be leased, mortgaged, or in any way alienated to any other Power. The answer to the third question is in the negative.

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the action of the Province of British Columbia in voluntarily undertaking to contribute one-ninth of the cost of constructing the Pacific cable, thereby reducing the contribution originally proposed to be borne by the Imperial Treasury to a comparatively small amount, Her Majesty's Government will re-consider the scheme formulated in his letter of April 28th, and endeavour to bring it into harmony with the wishes of the Canadian and Australasian Governments.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): We have not yet received the replies of the Colonial Governments; but if any representations are made to us on their behalf in reference to

the offer of Her Majesty's Government they will be carefully considered.

GOVERNMENT CHURCHES IN INDIA.

MR. WALFORD GREEN (Wendlesbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state the purport of the new regulations issued by the Indian Government concerning the use of Government churches in India for Presbyterian and Wesleyan services.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The only alteration made in the rules issued last year is defining more accurately the religious bodies who may hold service in the church in question, and in substituting in the appeal from a Bishop's decision the authority of the Metropolitan for that of the joint authority of the Bishop and the civil or military power. In all other respects the rules remain unchanged.

INDIAN RAILWAY CONTRACTS.

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian Government have given the order for the Goktiak Viaduct, containing 5,000 tons of steel, to an American firm; will he explain why the chief English bridge builders were not asked to tender for it; and, whether he will give instructions in future that tenders shall be invited from the chief British makers.

LORD G. HAMILTON: My honourable friend has evidently been misinformed about this matter. The order for the Goktiak Viaduct was not given by the Government of India, who have nothing to do with it, but by the Burma Railways Company. The company invited five English firms and two American firms to tender. Of the five English firms four refused to tender; but one English firm which had not been invited asked leave to tender, and was allowed to do so. Consequently two English and two American tenders were sent in. The most favourable English tender required three years for the work, at a cost of about £116,000. The most favourable American tender required about one year for the completion of the work, at a cost of £60,125. In these circumstances the company, with the concurrence of the Government director (who represents the

Secretary of State) accepted the American tender. The Indian railway companies give preference in all these contracts to British makes, but I am sorry to say that this is not the first contract in which there has been a marked difference both in price and time of delivery between British and American tenders.

INDIAN SUGAR DUTIES.

MR. MACLEAN (Cardiff): I beg to ask the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury a question of which I have given private notice—whether, in view of the disclosures in the Blue-book as to the real source and origin of the Indian Sugar duties, he will agree to fix a day for the discussion of this subject.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If I am to interpret the question of my hon. friend by the letter he has sent to me indicating his desire, I may say he has fallen into an error in the interpretation he puts upon the Blue-book; but without dwelling on that point, I must say at this time of the year especially public time is extremely valuable, and unless there is a demand which the Government could not ignore from the authorised leaders of the Opposition, I do not think it would be possible to find the time my hon. friend, and I may say the Government themselves, desire to give to the discussion of this interesting subject.

SIR H. H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): To clear the atmosphere, I may say that it is my intention to give notice to move an Address praying her Majesty to be pleased to disallow the Indian Tariff Amendment Act, 1899.

SIR H. CAMPBELL - BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): And in order to complete the right hon. Gentleman's satisfaction, I beg to ask him if he will give a day for the discussion of my right hon. friend's motion?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course, I shall be very glad to give a day. The actual day perhaps had better be a matter for mutual arrangement.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): As this is the subject of a motion down for Tuesday next, will the right hon. Gentleman undertake not to take that day away?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have promised a day for something practically equivalent to a vote of censure on the Government to the right hon. Gentleman opposite, and under the circumstances I do not think we should have a preliminary canter on a subject nearly the same.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the right hon. Gentleman, in accordance with a private notice I have sent to him, whether, in view of the immense interest felt in the Church Discipline Bill appointed for discussion to-morrow (Wednesday), and the certainty that many Members anxious to take part in the debate would be shut out by the half-past five rule, the right hon. Gentleman will agree to suspend the Wednesday rule.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am convinced I should spread universal dismay through the House if I were to answer the question in the affirmative. It is evident that if a concession of that kind were made in regard to one Wednesday, then whenever a Bill exciting general interest, which is often the case, is down, a similar demand will be made, and I do not know at what period we might expect to separate.

COURSE OF BUSINESS.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): What is the business for Friday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps I had better make a general statement. Friday, under ordinary circumstances, would be devoted to Supply, but the Secretary to the Treasury is not yet able to be in his place, and though I am glad to think my right hon. friend is nearly recovered, a heavy night's Estimates would be beyond his powers. Under the circumstances, I will ask the House to depart from the usual practice, and continue the discussion of the Finance Bill, should that not be finished on Thursday. On Friday, next week, I propose that after the evening sitting the House shall adjourn for the Whitsuntide holidays, the Votes in Committee of Supply set down for that day being of a non-controversial character. I intend to propose that the House shall meet after the holidays on the Wednesday week following. On the Thursday and Friday after reassembling I propose

to take Votes in Supply, Wednesday being a private Members' day, so that hon. Members mainly interested in legislation can prolong their holidays over the fortnight.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: What will be taken on Friday should the discussion on the Finance Bill close on Thursday? Will the sitting on Friday week be of the ordinary character?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The sitting on Friday week will be an ordinary sitting, and should the discussion on the Finance Bill close on Thursday, Friday will be devoted to the London Government Bill.

MR. CHANNING: When will the Government move the adjournment for the holidays?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Probably at the commencement of the Friday's sitting.

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 4:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 12, after 'council,' to insert 'and the scheme shall provide, in the case of any detached part of a parish containing a public library, or public baths or washhouses, being annexed to an adjoining borough, for the maintenance of the public library, or public baths or washhouses, by the council of such borough, and for the proper adjustment of the liabilities which attach to the public library, and of the cost of its maintenance.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) moved the above Amendment, for the purpose of eliciting an expression of opinion in regard to it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think the question should be decided on this clause, but if the right honourable Gentleman wishes an expression of opinion from me as to whether public libraries should be maintained by the new councils, I am happy to give him the assurance that I shall consider a form of words that may secure that which he and I both desire.

MR. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) submitted that this was really the stage

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

where they should settle this question, because this difficulty arose, that the scheme under this Act abolished a commission and transferred their powers to the new council. There were a great many instances in which difficulties of this kind would occur, and they ought to know how these difficulties were to be met. There were something like 40 instances in London where the adoptive Acts have been adopted, and a large number of these districts would have to be coupled up with other local districts which had not adopted the Acts. There were on the Paper Amendments providing four different methods for meeting the difficulty. One was that of the right honourable Baronet, placing upon the councillors the necessity of dealing with the matter, but without indicating the exact method. Another was to exclude from the management of the particular adoptive Acts in the district, any other borough councillors who might not represent these particular districts. A third method was to restrict the management to the ratepayers of the district. And finally there was what he believed was the only real method of meeting the difficulty, that of the honourable Member for Islington, who proposed that at one stroke the Bill should oblige all London to adopt the adoptive Acts. It was certainly a Procrustean method, but it was a way of solving an extremely difficult question otherwise. He did not see that it was necessarily inconsistent with the Amendment of the right honourable Baronet now before the House, but the difficulty had arisen from the endeavour to unite various districts together. When the first clause of the Bill was being discussed, he warned the House that not only this difficulty would arise, but others, as for instance in relation to debts and assets. Then there was electric lighting, which was a most complicated question, and had been made more complicated by the whole system of the Bill. How were they to deal under this Act with the rights and privileges of the existing electric light companies, and the power of the local authorities to deal with them? The matter ought to be dealt with by the Government now.

***SIR CHARLES DILKE** thought they had no option but to accept the promise of the right honourable Gentleman in charge of the Bill, that he would intro-

duce words to meet the case, and he asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) entirely agreed with the honourable Member for Hoxton, and pressed the Government to deal with the question now. It was a great mistake to postpone all these specific questions, which really dealt with the machinery of the Bill. They ought to have some indication from the Government as to how they were going to deal with the question.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) suggested that only those borough Members who represent a district where an adoptive Act had been adopted should join in administering it, but he would be quite content to leave the matter to the Government.

THE SOLICITOR - GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said he had only one word to add to what had been said by the First Lord of the Treasury. The Amendment proposed by his honourable friend and that moved by the right honourable Baronet opposite approached the subject from two different points of view. The one seemed to contemplate the taking over of public libraries, baths, and washhouses, and that these should be supported from the local rates. The other proposed that only those who represented the particular districts where the baths, washhouses, or libraries were situated should join in administering the adoptive Acts. These were two very intelligent points of view, which had received very careful consideration. If honourable Members would look at Clause 15 they would see it was provided that a scheme under the Act might make provision "for such adjustments as may be required for carrying into effect any of the provisions of this Act, or for preventing any injustice with respect to the incidents of any rate or the discharge of any liability or otherwise." He suggested that the proper place for the whole of this matter to be considered was when they reached Clause 15.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) admitted the complexity of the question, and he was inclined to agree that Clause 15 was the best place to deal with it. He hoped the

Government, before they got to Clause 15, would prepare some general scheme to deal with all cases that might arise.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The pledge which I have given had reference only to what the right honourable Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean has said, but the Government, with a full knowledge of the difficulty, are perfectly prepared to consider the question most carefully, and to deal with it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question—

"That Clause 4 as amended stand part of the Bill,"
put and agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

Amendment proposed—

"To add to Sub-section 1 the words: 'Provided that in all cases where power under the Public Health (London) Act, and The Common Lodging House Act, 1851, is transferred, the transfer shall be made subject to the power of the London County Council to make bye-laws and regulations.'"—(Mr. Stuart.)

MR. STUART said the object of his Amendment was very simple—it was to preserve to the London County Council the power of making bye-laws on those matters affecting the Public Health Act which were transferred to the local bodies. He might say that the whole of those powers were discussed between the local authorities and the London County Council in 1896, and the provision he had just read was adopted by a conference, on which the London County Council's representatives did not vote. The London Public Health Act had made the London County Council practically the responsible authority for making bye-laws, while it left the administration of the Act in the hands of the local sanitary authorities. The object was perfectly clear, that they should have a uniform system throughout London. He could not see how the change of circumstances which this Bill would bring about could change the extremely urgent requirements of public health. He was not asking that the power should be taken clean out of the hands of the local bodies, but only that the making of the bye-laws, and securing obedience to them, should be with the London County Council. The report of the Royal Commission, of which the

honourable Member for Bodmin was the Chairman, stated that even those most strongly in favour of the aggrandisement and independence of the local bodies recognised the practical inconvenience of having the administration of the Public Health Act different in one locality from another, and in order to obtain uniformity, the central authorities should frame the bye-laws under which the local bodies should act. If that were done, some of the functions now in the hands of the central authority might be entrusted to the local authorities. The London Public Health Act was well thought out, and had done an immense deal in making London one of the healthiest and most wholesome cities in the world. Now they were going by this Bill to hit or destroy one of its most important features, namely, the uniformity of the system under which it was carried out. He contended that the bye-laws framed by the London County Council had never been regarded as oppressive, and no serious complaint of any kind had been made against them. He reminded the Committee that 50 per cent. of the inhabitants who would come under the jurisdiction of the new district councils lived in one or two-roomed houses, which showed the necessity for uniformity and efficiency of administration.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he thought that what the honourable Gentleman wanted was already provided for by the Bill. If he looked at the last paragraph of the first part of the Second Schedule, he would see the words "power and duty of executing the Acts relating to common lodging-houses, except the power of making regulations under Section 9 of the Common Lodging House Act, 1851." If there were any other sections of that Act to which the honourable Member referred, the proper place to raise the question would be on that part of the second Schedule.

MR. STUART said that the power to make bye-laws was not preserved to the London County Council in respect of the Public Health (London) Act. The reason why he had moved his Amendment on Clause 5, and not on another part of the Bill was, that it was quite possible other powers might be transferred in the first part of the Second Schedule, and he wished this limitation as to bye-laws to cover the

Mr. Stuart.

whole of the powers conferred. He would like to obtain from the Government the assurance that the transfer of any powers under the Public Health Act from the central to the local authorities, should be subject to the reservation that the immensely important power of making bye-laws should remain in the hands of the central authority. His Amendment covered a great general principle, and he asked the right honourable Member for Bodmin for his powerful support in his appeal to the Government in this matter.

*THE CHAIRMAN ruled the Amendment out of order at this stage. The honourable Member could move to insert it in the first part of the Second Schedule where the particular powers were transferred.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 1, to leave out 'Sub-section 3.'"—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

MR. PICKERSGILL said he objected to this Sub-section, which set forth that

"If the London County Council agree with any borough council for the transfer to that Council of any power capable of being exercised by the London County Council within the borough, the Local Government Board may, if they think fit, make a Provisional Order for carrying into effect the transfer on the condition specified in the agreement, either without modification, or with such modifications as may be assented to by the London County Council and borough council."

It was clear that if that proposal was carried, and came into operation, there would be an end to anything like uniformity in London, for they would have one borough council exercising a power which was not enjoyed by other borough councils. But the proposal of the Bill did not stop there. When the agreement between the London County Council and one borough council to transfer power came into operation, it would be in the power of the Local Government Board to transfer the same power to any other borough council, upon its application, without the concurrence of the London County Council. Then it was further provided that when a majority of the boroughs exercised a particular power the Local Government Board might, on the application of the London County Council, impose the same power on any other borough council. He used the word "impose" because it was obvious that in the third case to which he referred a

power might be transferred to a borough council against its own will. He desired by his Amendment to obtain the opinion of the Committee on the whole question of these proposals to transfer. Many outside the House felt that if there was to be any transfer of existing powers from the London County Council to the borough councils, the transfer ought to be made by the authority of this House.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea) said that he and other honourable Members desired to facilitate in every way the transfer of power from the London County Council to the borough councils, but they desired that it should be done at the right time. Some of them feared that the scheme set up by the Government in the Bill would rather retard and hinder than facilitate the transfer of these powers.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) said that this was a very difficult question to deal with. Firstly, when a transfer of powers was made there must be naturally an increase in the expense. It was very important that the new boroughs should not be put to the expense. If work were put on the new boroughs, the money to carry it out should come from the common county fund. Supposing the new borough of Camberwell was to take over the public park, which cost £60,000, it was only right that the cost of keeping the park up should be paid out of the common county fund. In handing over powers it was not necessary to be uniform, because they could not be uniform. In some neighbourhoods there were shops and factories where inspectors would be wanted; in other neighbourhoods there were only private residences, and therefore the cost of the transfer of the powers would depend on the locality. He thought Sub-section 3 was perfectly advisable and in order, but that Sub-section 4 should be done away with.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON agreed that certain powers might be legitimately and properly transferred from the London County Council to the boroughs. But there was an alternative that certain powers already in possession of the local authorities might be re-transferred to the London County Council. All this gave rise to the suspicion that there might be some ulterior motive at work. The clause

had been called the "suicide clause." If the Bill passed without any amendment the powers would not be transferred without due publicity and in the sight of all parties, but when the first transference was made the London County Council would cease to have any power over future operations under the clause. A suggestion he ventured to make on the Second Reading of the Bill and which met with considerable favour—was that the transference and re-transference of the powers should be made not by the Local Government Board, but by the ordinary means of a Bill introduced by the London County Council itself into Parliament and passed by Parliament, so that the House of Commons might have a voice in the decision of the question. That would allay any feeling of suspicion in the matter. The First Lord of the Treasury had said that this clause had excited very unnecessary alarm. Their suspicions might have been erroneous, but the Government had a very easy means of allaying the alarm by adopting the method he had suggested. He appealed to the right honourable Gentleman to make some suggestion to the Committee either in the direction he had indicated or in some other, so that they might come to an agreement in regard to it. Otherwise he should vote with his honourable friend behind him, because he considered it was very pernicious, and would do a great deal of harm.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The honourable Gentleman has quoted words of mine in which I am supposed to have said that this clause would arouse a great deal of unnecessary suspicion and alarm. I think it has caused a great deal of unnecessary suspicion and alarm. I think it has been pointed out by the honourable Baronet the Member for Dulwich that if the clause was to remain as it is the arguments against any agreement being come to between the County Council and the single borough would be so overwhelming that, as a matter of fact, no such agreement would be made. The clause as it stands would compel the County Council not merely to consider the propriety of this, but they would be compelled to consider the whole problem at once. I wish this clause to be a reality and not a sham, as I am afraid it will be unless we modify it. I am disposed to think that the simplest plan would be to substitute

for Sub-sections 3, 4, 5, and 6, a single sub-section as follows :—

"The Local Government Board may, if they think fit, on the application of the London County Council and of the majority of the borough councils, make a Provisional Order for the transfer to all the borough councils of any power exercisable by the County Council or for the transfer to the County Council of any power exercisable by the borough councils."

That alteration gets rid of the objection which has been felt by many that the scheme in the clause is not a bi-lateral scheme. It also meets really the objection that the clause would be inoperative owing to the natural reluctance of the County Council to enter into a bargain with the borough councils, the full results of which they could not foresee. I think, further, that it will promote uniformity of administration over the whole of London, to which I am aware those most conversant with the administration of London attach great importance, although I confess I have never been thoroughly impressed with the value of that principle. I have often cross-examined people as to what evil results from some differentiation in the functions of these bodies, and I have never yet had a thoroughly satisfactory reply. And yet the consensus of opinion among all classes has been so great that I confess myself reluctant to set up my judgment against theirs. I do not attach any very great importance to the result of the Amendment I have proposed. I am inclined to believe that by the simple sub-section I have proposed and the withdrawal of the rather complicated sub-sections I have mentioned we may come to a rapid agreement upon this thorny question.

MR. STUART asked if he was right in assuming that the right honourable Gentleman suggested that Sub-sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 be withdrawn, and that this new sub-section be substituted in its place.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes.

MR. STUART said in that case he did not object.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg leave to move that Sub-sections 3, 4, 5, and 6, be struck out.

Mr. A. J. Balfour,

Amendment put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"That the following new sub-sections be added. The Local Government Board may, if they think fit, on the application of the London County Council and of the majority of the borough councils, make a provisional order for the transfer to all the borough councils of any power exercisable by the County Council or for the transfer to the County Council of any power exercisable by the borough councils."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

MR. STUART said these words were a great improvement upon the words which had been omitted. At the same time they did not meet exactly what they desired. They did not desire the relations between the central and the local authorities in London to be made the sport of Provisional Orders. They objected to the Local Government Board dealing with this question, and if they wanted to settle the powers as between the local and the central body they should do it in the ordinary way by Act of Parliament. He proposed, therefore, to move an Amendment that this could only be done by a majority of two-thirds of the bodies voting, and that when an agreement was come to in this way the London County Council should be obliged to bring in a Bill for that purpose.

*COLONEL HUGHES (Woolwich) pointed out that the honourable Member would have an opportunity of disputing anything to which he objected when it came up for confirmation by Parliament as a Provisional Order.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON was very glad the Government had made this concession, which really met all the objections they had raised except one. He thought there was some force in the point raised by his honourable friend as to the necessity of dealing with this question in the ordinary way instead of through the Local Government Board. The control of the House of Commons over Provisional Orders was practically non-existent.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. RITCHIE, Croydon): Provisional Orders require to be confirmed by Parliament exactly in the same way as Private Bills.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON contended that the House often passed them without knowing what they really were. He was

ready to accept the suggestion which had been made, but reserved his right on the Report Stage to deal with the words which had just been read to the House.

MR. STUART said that he regarded as one of the chief improvements made by the suggestion of the First Lord of the Treasury the fact that they would get uniformity. One of the great objections to the Bill as introduced was that they would never know what Act was being administered or what power existed in a given district in London.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE thought there was a great deal in what his right honourable friend below him had said. What would be the result when they wanted a transfer? Why, every single borough must agree, or at least a majority of them must agree. That was a very difficult thing, because it might be advantageous to transfer powers to certain boroughs and not to others. He thought it was right to have the safeguard exercised by the Local Government Board in transferring these powers to different boroughs without granting them to all.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) thought the right honourable Gentleman had met them very fairly, for it was now quite clear that Provisional Orders brought matters before the House in the same way as other legislation, and he was satisfied.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said that as an outsider he thought the proposed plan was defective because it laid down that the transfer was to be made to all or none. He did not think it was wise to apply a hard and fast rule to all of them, and he suggested that the words should be "any or all." He believed that they would never find a majority of the borough councils and a majority of the London County Council agreeing upon the transfer of powers, and the effect of this new sub-section would be that there would never be any transference of powers at all. His view was that there should be the possibility of a transfer of such powers not merely to all the boroughs but to some of them in particular.

MR. STUART pointed out that some time ago the London County Council agreed that certain powers should be transferred, and was it now suggested

that there was to be opposition to this course? All they had been arguing against was the method by which it was to be done.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I would remind the Committee that in the Bill as it stands this clause would be inoperative, and that is the reason why I have suggested this new sub-section.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) thought that at this stage of the Bill the words might be accepted, as they had been offered in a good spirit, and would remove a great many of the objections which were felt towards the Bill. He earnestly hoped that the idea of allowing partial transfers to some boroughs would not be adopted.

MR. LOWLES (Shoreditch, Haggerston) thought that if a rule of this kind prevented the introduction of improvements in the various localities it would be a great misfortune. It was all very well to say the Council had agreed to certain transfers, but the County Council were exceeding jealous of any interference with their control over the local bodies. He was afraid that this new sub-section would not help to bring about that development of local life which they had all wished to see. He moved the insertion of the words "or any" after the word "all."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, after the word "all" in line 3, to insert the words "or any."—(Mr. Lowles.)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

SIR R. B. FINLAY thought it was extremely undesirable that those words should be inserted, and he hoped the honourable Member would accept the suggestion which had been made at the present stage.

*MR. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston) said that when the Bill was first brought in he regarded this clause as the most dangerous one in the whole Bill. But in the form in which this new sub-section had been proposed there was both equality and symmetry, and it would be very much better to accept it just as it stood.

MR. LOWLES said that on the understanding that the Government would consider the point he had raised between now and the Report stage he would consent to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment to the Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Original Amendment agreed to.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said what had just been passed rendered an alteration necessary with regard to the seventh sub-section, which was not applicable to the section as it now stood. He moved the omission of Sub-section 7, and the substitution of the following words :—

“The Local Government Board may also on the joint application of the London County Council and the Common Council of the City of London make a provisional order transferring any power from the County Council to the Common Council or from the Common Council to the County Council.”

The effect of this would be that the City would be dealt with separately, and by itself.

MR. STUART said that he thought something ought to be said with regard to the two-thirds majority. He thought if a transfer were to be made between these two important bodies it should be safeguarded by some terms. He rather thought that there was a clause which practically covered that matter in the Bill of 1898. He saw that there was the protection of a Provisional Order, but, at the same time, a Provisional Order Bill passed through the House under very different circumstances to other Bills, and he would much prefer in the case of these important bodies that there should be the safeguard of a two-thirds majority.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON regretted that he could not welcome the Amendment, because he foresaw some danger in it. He did not desire to discuss the matter at that moment, because it depended very much on the wording of the Amendment. All he desired to do was to reserve liberty to himself to oppose it on the Report stage.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 :—

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : The Committee will perhaps permit me, though not

strictly in order, to make a statement in connection with Clause 6. It was introduced into the Bill in order to complete the theory of the Bill, so far as the transfer is concerned. The theory of the Bill is that we should transfer from the county council to the borough council all the powers those two authorities have agreed to transfer, and not go further. Some of the powers agreed to be transferred are dealt with in Clause 6, and some are dealt with in the schedule of Clause 7, but there remains some powers under the London Building Acts, and these cannot be transferred by schedule or clause, or by any other process, because of the interference with the Building Acts which necessarily ensues. Clause 6 was an attempt to circumvent the herculean task of amending the Buildings Act. It was the best attempt that could be made, but it is an attempt which, I am bound to say I consider was, from the first, foredoomed to failure. I do not think it is possible to leave it, as this clause proposes to leave it, to be dealt with by a Provisional Order Bill, and to deal with an amendment of the Buildings Act and the transfer of the provisions of that Act to the new authorities does not come within the province of a London Government Bill. It must be done, I think, by a detailed arrangement with the borough councils and the county councils, and the consideration of the Building Act by this House as a whole. I am sorry that this should be so, because to that extent it mars the symmetry of the measure, because we shall not be able to transfer to the borough councils all the powers agreed to be transferred. Inasmuch as it is impossible to realise that idea by this Bill, the Committee, I trust, will permit me to move that this Clause be omitted.

Question :—

“That Clause 6 be omitted”—(Mr. A. J. Balfour),

put and agreed to.

Clause 7 :—

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON desired some information with regard to the third sub-section, which he thought was not quite clear. If the main road was transferred to the borough municipality without contribution, he wished to know whether it would still be maintained by the central body. He further noticed that while main roads came under one sub-section, highways came under another.

SIR R. B. FINLAY pointed out that Clause 8 dealt with those powers.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE wished to know whether it would not be as well to put in the words "tramway lines" after the words "roadway" in Sub-section 2. He moved that that sub-section should be amended so as to read "roadway, tramway road, and footway."

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think the words of the honourable Member would make sense; the words in the sub-section are, "by reason of its being a roadway or footway of a bridge"; and if we put in "tramway road" I am afraid it would not make sense.

MR. PICKERSGILL moved to omit Sub-section 3 of Clause 7, which provides that the power of a borough council to close or stop up a street, under Section 84 of the Metropolis Management Amendment Act, 1862, shall not require the sanction of the London County Council. It was clear that if they removed this power it might easily happen that two adjoining boroughs, acting independently, might stop up at the same time two parallel streets, causing great inconvenience to traffic.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 9, to leave out 'Sub-section (3).'"—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed—

"That Sub-section 3 stand part of the Clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The objection brought against the sub-section by the honourable Gentleman has very little substance. He is afraid lest the borough councils should permit two parallel thoroughfares to be blocked up at the same time. After all, the borough councils are entrusted with the care of the street, the paving and lighting, and they are the bodies most directly and immediately interested in the proper arrangements for the traffic. Therefore, if any body is to be trusted to take care that two adjacent thoroughfares shall not be blocked at the same time, I think it is the borough council. Under the circumstances, I hope the honourable Gentleman will not press us to make this change in the Bill.

MR. STUART thought there were the very strongest reasons for not altering the law. The power of the central authority was given by the amendment of the Metropolis Management Act. The Metropolis Management Act of 1855 did not give this power, and in consequence of the difficulty that arose Parliament introduced the Act of 1862, which gave the requisite authority to the then Metropolitan Board of Works. There was no difficulty at the present time, but if they removed the central power there would be nothing to prevent two boroughs from stopping up the ends of two parallel streets at the same time, to the general inconvenience of the public.

MR. COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin) said he did not think his right honourable friend the Leader of the House quite appreciated the question of convenience involved in this matter. His honourable friend who had just sat down spoke of the extreme inconvenience caused before the existing law was introduced, and he (Mr. Courtney) could not help thinking that there should be some machinery by which the public should be protected from the inconvenience of two streets being "up" at the same time. This might happen from mere thoughtlessness or want of agreement between two neighbouring boroughs.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said he was not particularly anxious that the sub-section should be struck out, but if it was so worded as to provide for the notification of the intention of the borough council to close a given thoroughfare, such notification to be made to the adjoining borough or the engineer of the County Council, the whole difficulty would be obviated.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think we may fairly leave this matter to the borough council. The suggestion of the honourable Member for Battersea is, however, worthy of consideration as far as the adjoining borough is concerned. My honourable friend the Solicitor-General has hastily drafted these words for insertion—which I venture to submit for acceptance:—

"Provided that before closing or stopping any such street the borough council shall notify the fact to the council in a contiguous borough."

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"To add at the end of Clause 1, the words: 'Provided that before closing or stopping any such street the borough council shall notify the fact to the council in a contiguous borough.'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question—

"That those words be there added,"
put and agreed to.

MR. PICKERSGILL moved the omission of Sub-section 4 relating to bye-laws and regulations with regard to dairies and slaughter-houses. It was not desirable that the enforcement of these bye-laws and regulations should be entrusted to the large number of borough councils into which London would be divided. There ought to be a uniform administration of them, and the only way to insure uniformity was to entrust their enforcement to one central body.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 13, to leave out Sub-section 4."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed—

"That Sub-section 4 stand part of the Clause."

SIR R. B. FINLAY appealed to the Committee to retain the sub-section. Surely the local authority was well aware of the circumstances of the locality, and had every opportunity of seeing to the enforcement of bye-laws in which its own district was primarily interested. In the event of the default of the local authority to enforce the bye-laws, the County Council might step in and bring the Local Government Board into operation against it.

MR. LOUGH remarked that that would be a very invidious duty for the County Council.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said this was an Amendment which he had hoped the Government were going to accept. At the present time the London County Council had the enforcement of the bye-laws. They had an excellent staff, and every person was treated in a fair and impartial manner. With regard to the provision at the end of the clause to the effect that if an inspector did not do his duty an appeal

should be made to the County Council to do it for him, he desired to draw the Solicitor-General's attention to the fact that at the present time every vestry and district board had a sanitary staff, whose duty it was to visit the various houses of the district and see that they were in a good sanitary condition. He happened to know that the men who were elected on the local boards were owners of property in their respective districts, and sanitary inspectors were practically intimidated by them not to carry out their duties in an honest and satisfactory manner. If that applied at the present time in reference to the Public Health Act, it would apply to the enforcement of the bye-laws in reference to dairies and slaughter-houses. There was another point. If they were going to put these extra duties upon the borough councils, they would impose extra expense upon them, because in many cases the local authorities were under-staffed. That being so, an extra staff would be required to carry out the extra bye-laws. An extra staff would mean extra expense, increasing the already heavy burden on the ratepayers in the East-end and other parts of London. He hoped, therefore, the Government would reconsider their decision in this matter.

MR. LOWLES said the plan of the Government, he was sure, was to make the powers given to the local bodies as real and independent as possible. He thought the fears expressed by the last speaker were groundless. In his own locality each dairy was already regularly visited by the sanitary officer, so that no extra expense would be incurred. He hoped the Government would adhere to the sub-section, and reject the interference of the County Council wherever possible.

MR. JOHN BURNS said there must be a central body in the Metropolis to see that the laws of sanitation were uniformly enforced. The County Council ought to be the metropolitan supervising sanitary authority, and it ought not to be cut out from some control over the making and enforcement of the bye-laws and regulations.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE said he entirely agreed with the sub-section, because he thought it was desirable to put all matters of sanitation in the hands of the boroughs.

*COLONEL HUGHES (Woolwich) said he should vote against the amendment. He held that it would be for the County Council to see that the local authorities thoroughly carried out the bye-laws respecting this matter.

Question put.

The Committee divided. Ayes, 238; Noes, 131. (Division List, No. 125.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Bhowagree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. G. (Lynn Regis)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crudas, William Donaldson
Cubitt, Hon. Henry

Currie, Sir Donald
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Donkin, Richard Sim
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Folkestone, Viscount
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City Lond.)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D. (Widnesbury)
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Borwick)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Captain Herbert M.

Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kemp, George
Kenyon, James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Cornwall)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lytelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Macfarlane, Charles (Liverpool)
MacIver, Sir L. (Edinburgh W.)
McKillop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Middlemore, John T.
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monckton, Edward Philip
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Depton)
Mount, William George
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Newark, Viscount
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pender, Sir James
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Riggins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)

Amendment proposed—

"To add at the end of Clause 1, the words: 'Provided that before closing or stopping any such street the borough council shall notify the fact to the council in a contiguous borough.'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question—

"That those words be there added,"
put and agreed to.

MR. PICKERSGILL moved the omission of Sub-section 4 relating to bye-laws and regulations with regard to dairies and slaughter-houses. It was not desirable that the enforcement of these bye-laws and regulations should be entrusted to the large number of borough councils into which London would be divided. There ought to be a uniform administration of them, and the only way to insure uniformity was to entrust their enforcement to one central body.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 13, to leave out Sub-section 4."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed—

"That Sub-section 4 stand part of the Clause."

SIR R. B. FINLAY appealed to the Committee to retain the sub-section. Surely the local authority was well aware of the circumstances of the locality, and had every opportunity of seeing to the enforcement of bye-laws in which its own district was primarily interested. In the event of the default of the local authority to enforce the bye-laws, the County Council might step in and bring the Local Government Board into operation against it.

MR. LOUGH remarked that that would be a very invidious duty for the County Council.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said this was an Amendment which he had hoped the Government were going to accept. At the present time the London County Council had the enforcement of the bye-laws. They had an excellent staff, and every person was treated in a fair and impartial manner. With regard to the provision at the end of the clause to the effect that if an inspector did not do his duty an appeal

should be made to the County Council to do it for him, he desired to draw the Solicitor-General's attention to the fact that at the present time every vestry and district board had a sanitary staff, whose duty it was to visit the various houses of the district and see that they were in a good sanitary condition. He happened to know that the men who were elected on the local boards were owners of property in their respective districts, and sanitary inspectors were practically intimidated by them not to carry out their duties in an honest and satisfactory manner. If that applied at the present time in reference to the Public Health Act, it would apply to the enforcement of the bye-laws in reference to dairies and slaughter-houses. There was another point. If they were going to put these extra duties upon the borough councils, they would impose extra expense upon them, because in many cases the local authorities were under-staffed. That being so, an extra staff would be required to carry out the extra bye-laws. An extra staff would mean extra expense, increasing the already heavy burden on the ratepayers in the East-end and other parts of London. He hoped, therefore, the Government would reconsider their decision in this matter.

MR. LOWLES said the plan of the Government, he was sure, was to make the powers given to the local bodies as real and independent as possible. He thought the fears expressed by the last speaker were groundless. In his own locality each dairy was already regularly visited by the sanitary officer, so that no extra expense would be incurred. He hoped the Government would adhere to the sub-section, and reject the interference of the County Council wherever possible.

MR. JOHN BURNS said there must be a central body in the Metropolis to see that the laws of sanitation were uniformly enforced. The County Council ought to be the metropolitan supervising sanitary authority, and it ought not to be cut out from some control over the making and enforcement of the bye-laws and regulations.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE said he entirely agreed with the sub-section, because he thought it was desirable to put all matters of sanitation in the hands of the boroughs.

Amendment proposed—

"In Page 5, Clause 7, line 22, At the end to insert 'Nothing in this section shall affect the power of the London County Council to make bye-laws and regulations under the Public Health and other Acts.'"—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY said there was no necessity to insert these words. The subsection stated that it should be the duty of the borough council to enforce within their borough the bye-laws and regulations for the time being in force. It said nothing about the power of making bye-laws, and therefore the suggested proviso was quite unnecessary.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he agreed with the Solicitor-General that the County Council had absolute power to make bye-laws. But he would like to know if the Council had a concurrent right of entry with the local authority to ascertain if the bye-laws and regulations were observed.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said he understood power was given, in the first instance, to the local authority, and then, if there was any default, the London County Council would act under the Public Health Act.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) inquired how the default was to be ascertained. Would the officers of the London County Council continue to have the power which they now possessed to enter upon and inspect the premises, so as to ascertain for themselves whether there had been any default?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I think the Council would have the power of entry.

MR. JOHN BURNS said it was the opinion of Dr. Shirley Murphy, the Medical Officer of the Council, that the powers of entry possessed by the Council under the Bill would be less complete than those possessed by the borough councils.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That does not arise on this amendment.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he was anxious to ascertain from the Solicitor-

General what were the exact powers the Council would possess. Would it, supposing it had information that a default was likely to occur, be able to send its inspectors to the premises before the default actually occurred? If not, it might be possible to spread disease very widely by the distribution of milk, which was a common source of contagion. It certainly seemed to him that the County Council ought to have concurrent powers of entry, especially in the case of dairies.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That question certainly does not arise on this Amendment.

Question put and negatived.

MR. STUART proposed the insertion of the words—

"That nothing in this section shall affect the powers of entry and inspection by London County Council officers."

LORD E. FITZMAURICE (Wilts, Cricklade): Will the Solicitor-General undertake to look into this matter before we reach the Report stage, and see if the power of entry is saved?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I am quite prepared to do that. Personally I think it is, but I quite agree that this is a matter which requires attention.

MR. STUART: I withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER (St. Pancras, E.) said the Amendment which he had to propose was somewhat consequential on a decision which was arrived at earlier in the evening. He wished to omit the words, "with the consent of the Local Government Board." This clause really gave power to alienate property with the consent of the Local Government Board, and without any reference to the Board from which the authority had practically to borrow the money to carry on their work. When the local authorities wanted loans they had to go to the County Council, which, before granting them, made inquiries as to the rating value of the district, the desirability and cost of the project for which the money was required. Surely, then, it would be better that it

should be left to the same body to inquire as to the advisability of allowing the local authority to alienate property, instead of calling in the Local Government Board.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 7, page 5, lines 23 and 24, to leave out 'with the consent of the Local Government Board.'"—(*Mr. R. G. Webster.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the honourable Member will probably see the propriety of not pressing this Amendment. The clause carries out a practice which, I believe, is universal in this country. There ought, evidently, to be some safeguard for preserving the rights of future generations. It is quite proper that, before property is alienated, some expert and impartial authority should be called in to decide as to the wisdom of the alienation. I do not think there could be a better authority than that chosen in the Bill, and I hope the Committee will accept the provision as it stands.

Question put and agreed to.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE moved the omission of Sub-section 6, on the ground that the promoting of Bills in Parliament would be a fruitful source of waste of the funds of these new municipalities. He could not imagine any purpose for which they would require to promote Bills; if any matter required legislation, it would be better to proceed by provisional order than by encouraging them to promote Bills of their own in Parliament. The 6th Sub-section could not have been thought out, for it used language entirely inadequate to the circumstances. The power of opposing Bills vestries now had, but the draftsman on this subject had been misled by the supposed analogy between these boroughs and municipalities throughout the country, and had introduced the principle in a form altogether inapplicable to London. The words imported into London law in this clause were to be found in the Borough Funds Act, which stated that all cost in connection with promoting or opposing Bills required the consent of owners or ratepayers, to be expressed by resolution in the manner provided by the Local Government Act of 1858. The latter Act, however, had

Mr. R. G. Webster.

been repealed by the Public Health Act, which had no application to London in this respect. The machinery to be adopted from the Borough Funds Act for the promotion of Bills was extraordinarily costly and cumbersome, and in many boroughs had become a dead letter. Some of the curious provisions set forth in the third schedule of that Act had, in fact, never been put in force. It was now proposed for the first time to introduce this cumbersome machinery into London. It would be much better simply to leave to the vestries their present power of opposing Bills, for it would merely be a temptation for the new councils to engage in costly conflicts one with the other.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 30, to leave out sub-section (6)."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words 'A borough council shall have the same powers of promoting' stand part of the clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it would be better from our point of view for us to carry out the general principles which we find applicable to boroughs outside London. The right hon. Baronet suggests that municipal boroughs ought not to have the power of promoting Bills in Parliament, but that they ought to have the power of opposing them. I am unwilling to inflict a stigma on these new boroughs by depriving them of a privilege which their brethren of the extra-metropolitan area have now possessed for a great number of years. That, of course, is in strict conformity with the general principles we have advocated from the very inception of this measure. There only remains the question of whether we should remove limitations in the case of the new boroughs which would put them in a better position as regards the promotion of Bills than the extra-metropolitan boroughs. I do not think we ought to do that, although I do not at all hold that the existing Borough Funds Act is a very convenient instrument, or one incapable of reform, or one, indeed, that it is not very desirable to reform. I think, probably at no distant date, Parliament will take in hand the system which the right hon. Gentleman very justly describes as cumbersome, and will effectively simplify it.

Amendment proposed—

"In Page 5, Clause 7, line 22, At the end to insert 'Nothing in this section shall affect the power of the London County Council to make bye-laws and regulations under the Public Health and other Acts.'"—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

Question proposed—

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SIR R. B. FINLAY said there was no necessity to insert these words. The subsection stated that it should be the duty of the borough council to enforce within their borough the bye-laws and regulations for the time being in force. It said nothing about the power of making bye-laws, and therefore the suggested proviso was quite unnecessary.

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General what were the exact powers the Council would possess. Would it, supposing it had information that a default was likely to occur, be able to send its inspectors to the premises before the default actually occurred? If not, it might be possible to spread disease very widely by the distribution of milk, which was a common source of contagion. It certainly seemed to him that the County Council ought to have concurrent powers of entry, especially in the case of dairies.

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Question put and negatived.

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Amendment by leave withdrawn.

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would be necessary to enlarge, and yet they could not do that unless they could promote a Bill in Parliament. Of course it was said that the councils could get the London County Council to do it in their General Powers Bill. At any rate, they had heard nothing in favour of the section as it stood.

MR. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.) hoped the Government would not accept any of the suggestions from the other side of the House which would bind the new boroughs hand-and-foot to the London County Council. The London County Council endeavoured on three occasions to put a Bill through the House regarding the Tower Bridge approaches which was disapproved of by all the representatives in the south of London. The Bill was successfully resisted for two years, and the hon. Member for Blackburn wrote a letter to show the scandalous way in which the ratepayers' money had been wasted.

SIR R. B. FINLAY, in answer to the question of the hon. Member for Islington as to the meaning of the words "necessary for the promotion or protection of the interests of the inhabitants of their borough," said these words occurred in the Borough Funds Act, and therefore there was respectable precedent in their favour. The words meant exactly what they said. If, in the opinion of the governing body, legal proceedings were necessary for the protection or promotion of the interests of the inhabitants of their district, they were at liberty to take such proceedings. In regard to the application of the Borough Funds Act, he would point out that that Act contained stringent precautions against abuses, and the Committee might be assured that the wanton promotion of or opposition to Bills would not be allowed. Consent was required from a public authority, which exercised its discretion. The Local Government Board and the Secretary of State required to be consulted before promotion was allowed, and there was no danger of the ratepayers' money being squandered in that way. Whatever justice there might be in the criticism of the right hon. Baronet as to the machinery of the Borough Funds Act, it was not desirable that the Committee should take in hand, on this occasion, the task of amending its provisions. Surely the proper way of dealing with it was

Mr. Lough.

by a general reform of the law with reference to all the boroughs to which the Act applied, and to put the new boroughs on the same footing as the other municipal boroughs throughout the country, in regard to the power to promote Bills. The power of promoting Bills was not on the same footing as that of opposing them, and for this reason—that there was a saving clause in the Borough Funds Act as to the existing rights of other bodies, and it had been held that these words had the effect of allowing any body to resist a Bill which was levelled at its existence, or at any of its essential rights, without going through the formalities prescribed by the Act. So that no uneasiness need be felt as to the powers of the Act being used for the purpose of recklessly promoting Bills.

MR. J. SAMUEL (Stockton) wished to disabuse the mind of the Committee of the idea that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean represented the views of the municipalities on this question. He knew there was some difference of opinion, and he also knew that the hon. Member for Islington was president of the Association of Municipal Incorporations. But he understood that that Association was principally composed of town clerks, who were very anxious that their municipal bodies should promote Bills in Parliament. Many of the municipal bodies, however, had sent resolutions, and instructed their delegates to oppose any alteration of the law. He held that the law was a check on the reckless promotion of Bills. A large number of councils had promoted Bills, but when they went before the electors and explained the object of the Bills, the ratepayers refused to give consent to their promotion. The Bill promoted by the Municipal Association did not altogether represent the views of the Association. The Bill said that the consent in writing must be obtained of a twentieth of the ratepayers. In some towns that meant that a thousand ratepayers would be called on to sign a paper in absolute ignorance of what was contained in the Bill, because there was no provision in the Bill for a previous public meeting at which the Bill would be explained. The great safeguard of the Borough Funds Act was that there must be a public meeting of the ratepayers to

discuss the objects of the Bill, and to take the sense of the meeting as to whether the Bill should be promoted or not. That Act had been a great protection in different municipalities against the reckless promotion of Bills which otherwise might have passed as Provisional Order Bills.

*COLONEL HUGHES said that the necessity for the new boroughs having power to promote Bills had been conceded by the London County Council, and they did that in order to get rid of the trouble of promoting legislation for different parts of London. If a new borough council wanted Parliamentary power to regulate markets, the London County Council would say, "Hand the market over to us; we ought to be the market authority," but he held that the boroughs were entitled to hold the markets for their own benefit. It seemed to him that Parliament ought to give these new councils some power of their own to promote Bills, and that they should not be compelled to go to any other body for the purpose.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down evidently wanted something different from the cheap and easy way of getting Parliamentary sanction to local improvements through the aid of the London County Council. The hon. Member said that if they wanted a market at Woolwich the London County Council would probably turn round and say they would not give a market as readily as some local improvement. The Metropolitan Board of Works and the London County Council spent altogether half a million of money on Woolwich ferry, and that money had been contributed by all London. What had that expenditure done? It had reduced the price of coal in Woolwich 1s. to 2s. per ton, and had also reduced the price of foodstuffs of all kinds. It seemed to him that if London as a whole was taxed to the extent of half a million, in order to provide communication between North and South Woolwich, on the principle that they who paid the piper had the right to call the tune, the markets should be in the hands of the Central Authority. Take the case of Covent Garden Market. Supposing the new Westminster borough were to get that market it would be at the

expense of all London, which made their purchases there. That would be a monstrous thing. Some people wanted metropolitan profits for local purposes. He could conceive no reason in a single case why the local authorities should be invested with power to promote Bills. The clause was unreasonable and unjust, and he trusted in the interests of economy that it would be withdrawn. As to the housing of the poor, they had only to put in force the Housing of the Poor Act, and they would get all they wanted.

MR. STUART said that in the conference between the local authorities and the County Council the local authorities proposed that they should have leave to promote Bills concurrently with the London County Council for improvements, and it was agreed to provide those improvements within the area of the local body promoting them, without assistance from the county funds. That was a definite proposal, to which they had no objection, and the local authorities did not seek for the greater powers of promoting Bills, and it was perfectly clear where the difficulty would arise if there was a general promotion of Bills by all the general authorities of London. He feared very much that the determination to regard these new metropolitan boroughs as absolutely identical with the great municipalities of England had caused all the trouble. He thought it would be better to exclude definitely from this Bill the power to promote Bills on subjects which referred not only to the special borough concerned, but also to the rest of London. He desired to move the addition of the words—

"with the exceptions of Bills referring to water, gas, tramways, and markets."

There were other subjects, but those were very great central questions, and it would be extremely inconvenient if the local bodies were to promote Bills in respect to them. He wished to ask whether he should be in order in moving those words at the end of the Clause.

*The CHAIRMAN: There will be no objection to moving it at the end.

MR. STUART said he had had a great deal to do with the Bills of the London County Council, which had not generally met with much opposition in the House, and they had been very favourably re-

ceived and dealt with by the Committees. He looked simply with horror at the prospect of having to promote Bills in this House, with the possibility of those measures being traversed by the new local authorities in London. The whole position would be one of enormous expense. Town clerks were well known to be great promoters of Bills, and they would have the new town clerks of these new boroughs eager to promote Bills. He looked with terror at the expense, the waste of time and the hopelessness of getting Bills through this House, and the entanglement in which all their legislation would be involved if this proposal was adopted. It had been said that it was desirable to make these new bodies as much like other boroughs as possible, but why should they stick to this resemblance upon this particular point, when the essential difference between them was that there were a large number of subjects which were taken out, and ought to be taken out, of the hands of these borough councils, because they belonged to the central government of London? He hoped the First Lord of the Treasury would not pre-suppose that there would be any antagonism between the boroughs and the County Council, for he should do his best to encourage good relations between them.

MR. LOWLES said he was in favour of giving local authorities the power to establish small markets. The street traders were a standing source of trouble to the police and to the local authorities, and a great many localities would be glad to have small markets for these street traders where they could be placed, instead of selling in the thoroughfares and obstructing the streets.

MR. LEUTY (Leeds, E.) said he gathered that the objection to alter the Bill was the desire of maintaining the analogy between these new boroughs and

the existing boroughs, but he desired to point out that the analogy which it was proposed to maintain did not exist. The city that he represented was divided into five Parliamentary divisions, and he could not conceive the confusion that would arise if all those five divisions were able to apply for Parliamentary Bills. On Private Bill Committees of this House he had seen something of the confusion that did arise, and the waste of money involved, by small authorities fighting with each other on trifling matters in which their interests ought to be one. It was a great pity to perpetuate this evil by sticking so much to the independence of these boroughs. They were told that the Government shrank from making reforms, but it was not true, for reforms had already commenced in London. The difficulties of administering the Borough Funds Act did not operate in London, but the Government were now going to make it operate. As a matter of fact, they were dragging back that cumbersome system which London was congratulated upon having got rid of. These new boroughs were not like the country boroughs, which were towns and cities in themselves, but they were only sections of one great town, and it was a thousand pities that that state of affairs had not been fully recognised. The analogy did not exist, and the result of the attempt to make an analogy when there was not one existing, would be that confusion would occur, and the difficulties would increase; whereas it would be easy, if this Amendment were accepted, to increase their powers if it was found desirable. If, however, they found that many Acts of Parliament had been obtained, and many other interests had grown up, it would be extremely difficult to get order out of the confusion created.

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 147; Noes, 68. (Division List, No. 126.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)

Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Burdett-Connors, W.

Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis

Mr. Stuart.

Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
 Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herbert Shepherd (Bolt'n)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Flower, Ernest
 Folkestone, Viscount
 Forster, Henry William
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Gouding, Edward Alfred

Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.)
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (H'mpshire)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Houston, R. P.
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.)
 M'Killop, James
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monckton, Edward Philip
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)

Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
 Percy, Earl
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlepool)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Tharrop (Stalybr.)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbyshire)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M' Taggart
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Allen, W. (Newc. under Lyme)
 Asher, Alexander
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Baker, Sir John
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Burt Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Daly, James
 Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter

Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Lambert, George
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Philipps, John Wynford

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
 Woods, Samuel.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Charles Dilke and Mr.
 John Burns.

MR. STUART proposed an Amendment. He pointed out that he proposed limiting the power of the boroughs in promoting Bills to those

“For making improvements wholly within their districts and not intended to be paid for wholly or in part out of county funds.”

powers which were proposed to be transferred which were not discussed at the conference. It was proposed at the conference that the borough councils should have concurrent powers with the County Council for promoting Bills for effecting improvements; but the Improvement Committee proposed that it should be limited to improvements within the districts of the local bodies. He thought that was a useful restriction, and it was upon that ground that he moved the Amendment, which was practically what was proposed at the conference.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 31, after the word 'promoting,' to insert the words 'Bills in Parliament for the purpose of making improvements wholly within their own districts, and not intended to be paid for either wholly or in part out of county funds.'"—(*Mr. J. Stuart.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY said there were ample provisions to be found in the Borough Funds Act for restricting these powers within due limits. Of course borough councils would make improvements relating to their own districts. If one borough had any special interest in any Bill, it would fall within such a Bill as the Local Government Board or borough might promote. He therefore thought the Amendment was unnecessary, and hoped it would not be pressed.

MR. JOHN BURNS thought that some concession would have been made with regard to this matter. Bills of every kind for every conceivable object could be promoted under the Borough Funds Act.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: A resolution must be passed in the special form prescribed.

MR. JOHN BURNS thought that it would always be possible to get enough people to justify the promotion of any

Bill. In his opinion, it was undesirable that these borough councils should have any such powers at all. If they had these powers, there appeared to him no reason why Clerkenwell should not promote a Bill to appropriate a part of Smithfield Market for its own use. That would immediately bring them into conflict with the Corporation, and he desired to see no conflicts. Such subjects as water, gas, markets, tramways, subways, docks, and matters of a like kind should be dealt with by a central authority and not a local body. Under no circumstances whatever ought the borough councils to be allowed to promote Bills with regard to subjects affecting the metropolis as a whole. He should, for instance, very much object to Bethnal Green getting up an agitation for the purpose of acquiring and doing away with Columbia Market. That would be a matter upon which all the ratepayers should be consulted. The Amendment made the clause sensible and workable in confining the ambitions of the local authorities to their proper areas and proper needs, and he hoped that the hon. Gentleman would press it to a Division.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) welcomed this new-born solicitude for the pockets of the London ratepayers on the part of the hon. Member for Battersea. He did not think that the example of the London County Council was the one to follow in these matters. For the last ten years that body had spent, not hundreds, but thousands a year in promoting Bills which never passed and in opposing Bills which always did pass. He was sorry that the London County Council had been held up as a pattern, because a more wanton and wicked waste of money could not be imagined. He thought that these powers might very properly be confided to the borough councils.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 67; Noes, 148. (Division List, No. 127.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Wm. (Newc. under Lyme)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)

Mr. Stuart.

Baker, Sir John
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)

Clough, Walter Owen
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dunn, Sir William

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hazell, Walter
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Kitson, Sir James
 Leng, Sir John
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McGhee, Richard
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)

Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Pearson, Sir Westman D.
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, C. Prestwich (Leigh)

Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. James Stuart and Mr.
 John Burns.

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederick Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bethell, Commander
 Bigwood, James
 Bond, Edward
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
 Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
 Fardell, Sir T. George

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Folkestone, Viscount
 Forster, Henry William
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. (City of London)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrell
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir Jn Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrews)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld George
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Holland, Hn. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Houston, R. P.
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt G. W. Grice-
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Kenyon, James
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 McKillop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milward, Colonel Victor

Monckton, Edward Philip
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N)
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Myers, William Henry
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Ch. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrona)
 Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbyshire)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancashire)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M. Taggart
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of W.)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Young, Commander (Berks, E)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. STUART moved to add at end of Clause 7—

“Provided that nothing in this section shall enable a borough council to promote a Bill relating to water, gas, tramways, markets, subways, docks, or any other matter affecting the general interests of the metropolis.”

His object in moving the Amendment was that there might not be cross purposes in promoting Bills in the House.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 5, line 38, at the end of the clause, to add the words, ‘But in this section shall enable a borough council to promote a Bill relating to water, gas, tramways, markets, subways, docks, or any other matter affecting the general interests of the metropolis.’”—
(*Mr. J. Stuart.*)

Question proposed—

“That those words be there added.”

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Amendment cannot be accepted.

MR. JOHN BURNS asked whether the right honourable Gentleman really thought the local authorities ought to have the power to promote Bills for the specific purposes mentioned in the Amendment? If so, Battersea, for instance, might bring in a Bill to promote a little tramway of its own, or to start a local market.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it is extremely improbable that any of the local authorities will acquire these powers. I should be greatly surprised if they asked for them. But if they do acquire the powers and exercise them improperly, the Committee may depend upon it that the House will very rapidly quash them.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 70; Noes, 157. (Division List, No. 128.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Wm. (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Baker, Sir John
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bilson, Alfred
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh)
Clough, Walter Owen
Colville, John
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dunn, Sir William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co)

Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hazell, Walter
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hogan, James Francis
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh)
Kitson, Sir James
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
MacAleese, Daniel
McGhee, Richard
McKenna, Reginald
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)

Oldroyd, Mark
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John (Cardell, Notts.)
Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. James Stuart and Mr. Steadman.

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Waltham)
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William

Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Bond, Edward
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh

Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas, Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cruddas, William Donaldson
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)

Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Folkestone, Viscount
 Forster, Henry William
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)

Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Houston, R. P.
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Kenyon, James
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 MacIure, Sir John William
 M'iver Sir Lewis (Edinburgh, W.)
 M'Killop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monckton, Edward Philip
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Myers, William Henry
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick

Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derby's e)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 8:—

MR. STUART proposed—

“To leave out on page 6, line 2, from ‘amount’ to end of clause, and insert ‘as shall be proportionate to the population in the district.’”

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I honestly confess I am unable to understand this Amendment, but I feel sure that the honourable Gentleman will agree with me that the amount of the contribution of the County Council should be proportionate to the work done by the borough councils, and in no sense proportionate either to acreage or to population.

MR. HALDANE (Haddington) said there was no doubt a good deal to be urged from a technical point of view against the Amendment, but whose fault was it that it had been moved in its present form? The principle of the clause was to leave it in the hands of the Local Government Board to apportion the amount of the

contribution. They were not told, however, to go on any particular plan, and no indication was given them that they were to observe the principle of the equalisation of rates. That principle the First Lord accepted, and said he desired to keep intact; and surely this was a matter in which he should see that it was put into operation. If the Government would, at a later stage, consent to the introduction of this principle, he did not think his honourable friend would desire to press his Amendment.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow, &c.) strongly protested against the allocation of the money on the basis of population. The Amendment practically proposed that the cost of the upkeep of the Embankment should fall upon the inhabitants of Westminster; when really it should be borne by London generally. Instead of the Amendment benefiting the poorer districts, it would fall on them in the hardest possible way. That would be notably the case in regard to the maintenance of the main roads, the cost of

which, instead of being distributed, as now, over the whole of London, would fall mainly on the poorer districts.

Amendment put, and negatived.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND said the next Amendment which stood in his name raised a very important question. As the hon. Member for Hoxton had pointed out, no direction was given to the Local Government Board as to the basis upon which they were to proceed in distributing the money. Were they to take the present net cost of the services to the London County Council as the basis, or were they to proceed upon the probable future cost to the borough councils, after the transference had been effected? It seemed to him that the only absolutely fair way would be for the whole cost of the central service to be charged against the county rate, and then it could be left to the Local Government Board to settle, as nearly as possible, what would be the probable cost to the new councils when they had taken over the duties. Any mistake that might be made could easily be rectified by having a revision every three or four years. The present net cost of these services was between £18,000 and £20,000, but it was impossible to predict exactly what would be the increased cost to the borough councils when they took over the administration. It was perfectly manifest that there would be an increase. Experience had shown what was likely to be the result in other matters, for, in regard to the Shop Hours Bill, while the City spent upon it £121 per year, the London County Council expended £352. If the new borough councils were going to expend at the same rate as the City, the result of the transference would be that each one would be spending £100 per year, but would only be receiving, as their share from the County Council, about £10 per year. It was clear there would be great injustice to the borough councils if they found, as he feared they would do, that many of the powers which were transferred to them would be a considerable burden to them, and largely increase their necessary expenditure.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 8, page 6, line 2, after 'annual' to insert 'calculated upon the probable cost to the borough council of administering any power or duty so transferred.'"—(Mr. L. R. Holland.)

Mr. L. R. Holland.

LORD E. FITZMAURICE (Wilts, Cricklade) thought that these words were not strictly necessary. The points raised by his honourable friend were precisely the ones which the Local Government Board would go into. Under the second subsection of Clause 2 of the Local Government Act, 1888, urban councils very often had to make some kind of agreement with county councils for the repair of main roads in their districts, and if any difference of opinion arose between them the Local Government Board came in as arbitrator.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER said he could not agree with his hon. friend who moved the Amendment. As had been pointed out, the work now being done by the County Council would probably be more expensively done by the new borough councils. Of course, he hoped that that would not be the case, but he thought it would be better, in the interests of economy, that they should come to an understanding in the matter, and take the last three years of the expenditure of the London County Council as the basis on which to apportion the contribution. He believed the new boroughs would not spend more than they could help, as it would be to their advantage, under such an arrangement, to carry out the duties as cheaply as possible. He begged to move an Amendment accordingly.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"Line 1, leave out from 'the' to 'council' in line 2, and insert 'average cost during the last three years to the London County Council.'"—(Mr. R. G. Webster.)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. H. S. SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) said he had an Amendment down on the Paper in almost exactly the same terms. It seemed to him that the new corporations would desire not to feel, in any way, at the mercy of the London County Council. If powers were transferred to them, the expense of which had been defrayed by the London County Council in the past, there should be no doubt whatever that the new corporations would lose nothing by the transference. He therefore supported the Amendment

to the Amendment, which certainly gave them something definite to go upon. The question of main roads was one of great importance to the East End of London, in which were situated six out of the eleven miles under the control of the London County Council. Very recently an attempt was made by the London County Council to transfer from themselves to the vestries the duty of maintaining these roads, and it caused a good deal of trepidation amongst the members of vestries, many of whom petitioned Parliament to prevent the transfer. They had only to substitute the corporations for the vestries, and the same feeling would arise again. Much anxiety would exist as to the amount of money that would be forthcoming, and he therefore earnestly appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury to adopt some plan which would make it clear that the new bodies would not in any way lose through the transfer.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he viewed this section with some concern, because there was nothing in it to indicate the basis upon which the contribution should be allocated. Every Member of the House, of course, desired that it should be fair and just, and the question was, what was the best basis. No doubt, in the matter of main roads, it would be easy to arrive at a specific sum which would be fair to all parties; but there were many other matters in which it would be very difficult indeed for the Local Government Board to arrive at a conclusion, unless some specific directions were given to it. Could not the right honourable Gentleman suggest words which would relieve them from considerable anxiety with regard to relations which might lead to great friction?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I wonder why this great increase of burdens is feared. Why should there be any additional cost?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he should like to point out that, in regard to some of the duties proposed to be transferred, there were matters of inspection which must involve a considerable increase of local rates, and unless there was a fair contribution from the central body, the cost would fall heavily upon the poorer districts.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid that I do not even now understand why

the transfer of these powers will be more costly to the poorer districts. We have before us two plans for giving directions to the Local Government Board, both supported nominally in the interests of the poorer districts. These plans are absolutely contradictory, because while the honourable Member for Bow and Bromley says it is not what the cost has been in the past, but what the cost is estimated to be in the future, my honourable friend the Member for Limehouse says we are not to take into account what the new duties are to cost in the future, but what they have cost on the average in past years. I would suggest that the plan in the Bill is the plan which really best enables a sound verdict to be come to with regard to all the facts of the case. It appears to be the opinion of Gentlemen opposite that this is a novel responsibility which we are throwing upon the Local Government Board, and that the Local Government Board, without direction, would be quite incapable of giving a just decision. But, as the noble Lord opposite has pointed out, this clause is framed upon the 11th Section of the Local Government Act, 1888.

MR. J. SAMUEL: That only refers to main roads.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is so. There is power to transfer main roads from one authority to another; there is a provision that an agreement may be come to between the two authorities as to the cost of those main roads; and there is a further provision that in default of an agreement the Local Government Board shall give a verdict on the question. That is a strict and accurate parallel to the proposal in this Bill. I venture to suggest that the Local Government Board is quite capable of taking into account all the circumstances of the case, and it would be hampered and not assisted by any attempt to set out in detail all the considerations which it is to take into account before it comes to its final decision.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said his recollection was that in the provision as to main roads, to which the First Lord had referred, there was no absolutely fixed amount, but the sum was determined from year to year. It struck him it was not necessary that an agreement under this section should finally fix the

amount. The agreement might be made upon the basis of determining the amount in a definite way. Let them take the case of the main roads. It might be arranged that the cost should be calculated every year, and that the County Council should pay seven-eighths of the actual outlay. It must be borne in mind that the amount varied from year to year, and in many cases it was very difficult to get at the probable cost.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There is an Amendment on the paper which suggests variations of payment, and that will be open to discussion.

MR. BOUSFIELD said he would like to have the opinion of the Solicitor-General whether, under the clause as it now stood, the amount might be made, not a fixed amount payable for all time, but a variable amount from year to year, to be determined in a certain way by the parties to the agreement.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said the Bill contemplated either a capital sum or an annual sum that should be fixed once for all.

MR. BOUSFIELD: But would it be possible for the local authority to agree with the County Council that that body should pay seven-eighths in each year of the actual cost?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: Yes. I think they might agree as to that.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Amendment put, and negatived.

MR. HALDANE moved to insert after "Board," in line 6, page 6, Clause 8, the following words:

"Provided that in determining such amount the Local Government Board shall, in such cases as it thinks appropriate, have regard to the proportion existing between the population and rateable value of such boroughs."

The object of the Amendment was to give more latitude to the Local Government Board, while leaving them discretion with regard to the provisions of the

Mr. Bousfield.

Equalisation of Rates Act. He wished the Committee to consider the concrete instance of the inspection of common lodging-houses. In the case of a poor district with a large population, it was obvious that in making a contribution to such a borough, account should be taken of the proportion between population and rateable value. Where the work was heavier, the contribution should be greater. He did not propose to limit the Local Government Board to any hard-and-fast line. He did not say that the words he moved were the best, but if the Government agreed to the principle which underlay his amendment, he should be perfectly content with an undertaking on their part to consider the matter before the Report stage.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The principle of the equalisation of rates is a very excellent principle, but surely this method of attempting to apply it is wholly irrelevant and inexpedient. The hon. Gentleman asks me to consider the question before Report. I am perfectly ready to consider it, but I cannot hold out any hope, unless some new and sudden light—some great illumination either from within or without—comes to me, that I can accept the Amendment. Does it bear argument in the case of main roads or in the case of common lodging-houses? In carrying out the duty of dealing with common lodging-houses in the poorer districts, where such houses are directly required, the County Council would have to pay more than it would in the richer districts; that is an obvious point which would be considered by the Local Government Board. It is a point which any umpire must take into account, but to lay down a principle which is very proper if we are dividing a lump sum between different areas of the Metropolis, and to attempt to apply it to the carrying out of different duties, is a perversion of the principle of the equalisation of rates which does not bear close examination. I am quite willing to give the pledge asked for by the honourable Gentleman, but I am unable to hold out any hope that the judgment I have formed on the spur of the moment will be any different from that formed after consideration.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON moved—

"In Clause 8, page 6, line 9, at beginning to insert 'provided that at any interval of not

less than three years the London County Council and the borough council may revise and alter the amount of the contribution, or, in default of agreement, the Local Government Board may, on the application of either party, if it think fit, revise and vary the existing arrangement."

He said it was possible that a particular decision might not be just, and that some alteration might be necessary. All he suggested was that there should be power on the part of the borough council or the County Council to reopen the question of the contribution if either side conceived it not to be fair, and that under such circumstances they should have an opportunity of arguing as to the future amount, and that if they were unable to agree the Local Government Board should arbitrate between them. It was right and just that there should be an opportunity from time to time, if the two parties desired it, to revise the amount.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think there is some force in the contention of the honourable Gentleman, but I look with a certain amount of suspicion on the propriety of the suggestion he makes. In any case three years is altogether too short a time. In my opinion it should at least be quinquennial, or even for ten years, but that is a detail on which we shall have no difficulty in coming to a proper decision. The danger to be avoided is that a borough council might be extravagant in expenditure for local purposes, and might then throw the cost over to another body. I can imagine the County Council carrying out some function for the last ten years at a cost of, say, £1,000 a year. The matter is then handed over to the local authority, and they find they cannot do it under £1,500 a year. Then at the end of five years the local authority might say to the Council, "You did this for £1,000; we spend £1,500. We must ask you for the extra £500." Then, perhaps, emboldened by success, they might ask for £2,000 at the end of another five years. I regard that as a danger. We hand over to these local bodies, absolutely without control, the management of this particular function, whatever it may be, and if we divorce the cost from the responsibility of carrying out the duty, very serious danger may arise. I will give the fullest consideration I am able to the Amendment, and if the honourable Member will

regard that as meaning that I will not undertake to favourably consider it, perhaps he will not press his Amendment.

MR. STUART said that unless the Amendment were considered the clause would be a *damnosa hereditas* to the poorer districts. Take the common lodging-houses. There was a great deal to be done in respect to them. At present the County Council had the responsibility of doing these things, and paying for them out of the common rates all over London, and if the responsibility were handed over to the local authorities, the new system would fall very heavily on the poorer districts. If they followed a hard and fast line, and gave a certain sum to such objects, the whole of the extension of the good work he had referred to, which was really beneficial to all London, would fall on the poorer districts.

COLONEL MILWARD (Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon) said that, under the Act of 1888, any Order made when a local body was parting with its powers was for perpetuity. The County Council was now asked to part with certain of its powers; and, if they followed the Act of 1888, the Order made by the Local Government Board would be for perpetuity.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND said it seemed to him that they were going to shackle the local authority with increasing expenditure. He believed the County Council was now able to conduct the inspection of common lodging-houses with four or five inspectors. They were going to transfer that power, and there would have to be a very much larger number of inspectors. The instance of the main roads was not applicable. The exact amount that had to be spent on their upkeep could be ascertained, and that amount could be paid over to the local authority; but, as regarded the other matter, it was merely taking a leap in the dark as to what the future expenditure was to be. Take the case of Poplar. It was absurd to contend that the small contribution now paid by Poplar to the County Council for the inspection of common lodging-houses would be equal to the expenditure it would have to incur when it undertook that duty for itself. It seemed to him that unless some concession were made in

the matter they would be benefiting the richer districts at the expense of the poorer districts.

LORD E. FITZMAURICE said the argument used by the honourable Member for Stratford-on-Avon was one that the Committee ought not to accept. It was perfectly true that in a case which came before the Derby Commission there was a fixed payment for ever, but that was a case where the area of the county had been entirely altered, and where there had been a dissolution of partnership.

MR. JOHN BURNS said the honourable Member for Bow and Bromley was one of those Members on the other side of the House who were strongly in favour of dignifying the boroughs by transferring to them from the County Council powers which, in his opinion, were more cheaply and efficiently administered by the central body. The honourable Member was, however, now face to face with the fact that these borough councils could not exercise these powers either as cheaply or as efficiently. Take the case of lodging-houses. The County Council had three or four inspectors for the 700 lodging houses of the Metropolis. If the duty of inspection were transferred to Bow and Bromley from the County Council, they would want at least one inspector for a fortieth part of London. The honourable Member admitted that, but he should have considered it before he voted to transfer such powers from the County Council. There was one thing they might do, and that was to extend the principle of the equalisation of rates to lodging-houses, and also to main roads, and if the First Lord of the Treasury was not prepared to go so far, he would be confronted with the fact that the local authorities would have to enforce their new powers at treble the cost, or refuse to face the cost, and leave the lodging-houses to sink down where they were twenty or thirty years ago.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK (London University) said that if the Committee adopted the suggestion of the honourable Member for Battersea, and allowed certain local bodies to spend the money that came from the central authority, he was afraid that they would find that the increase of rates of which they had complained in the past would be even exceeded in the

Mr. L. R. Holland.

future. Those who incurred the expenditure should find the money for the expenditure, and until they adopted some principle of that kind they would find their rates continually increasing. He ventured to submit to the Committee that the principles enunciated by his right honourable friend the Leader of the House were really the right ones, and that they ought to leave the responsibility of finding the money to those who were going to incur the expenditure.

*COLONEL HUGHES thought that, as there was a fresh valuation every five years, it would be better if the revision and alteration of the amount of the contribution took place quinquennially rather than triennially.

MR. STUART urged that constant re-organisation and central supervision were necessary. By transferring powers at present exercised by the central authority, they were casting considerable additional burdens on the poorer districts. They had therefore not only the danger that these matters would cost more to the locality, but the additional danger that they would not be so efficiently done.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that, as the First Lord of the Treasury had promised to consider the matter before the Report stage, he would not put the Committee to the trouble of a Division.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question—

"That Clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill,"

put and agreed to.

Clause 9 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 21, to leave out Sub-section 1."—(*Mr. R. G. Webster.*)

MR. R. G. WEBSTER pointed out that Clause 1 provided that any committee appointed by a borough council for the purpose of the Libraries Acts, 1892 & 1893, or of any of their other powers or duties, might consist partly of persons not members of the council. He thought the provision giving a borough council power to elect gentlemen from the outside to sit on these committees was one of the most remarkable provisions that

had been put in any Local Government Bill brought before the House of Commons, and one which would not commend itself to honourable Members. If they were going to put superior persons on these bodies from the municipal associations, the Primrose League, or from the other wire-pulling associations, he must say he preferred the better system by which the ratepayers of London directly elected the people to carry on their municipal work. He therefore moved to omit Sub-section 1.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said he was ready to meet the honourable Member by striking out the words, "or of any of their other powers or duties."

MR. JOHN BURNS: Then will the superior persons not be elected?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: They will be confined to the libraries committees.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. STUART moved to omit Sub-section (2), because he did not see the use of it. It provided that every committee should report their proceedings to the council, but to the extent to which the council so directed acts and proceedings of the committees should not require the approval of the council. This proposal would destroy the unity of action of the council, and would encourage the council to be idle and to allocate its powers to committees. He thought no

committee should be allowed to spend money except with the sanction of the council direct, and that every committee should be required to report their proceedings to the council.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 25, to leave out Sub-section (2)."—(*Mr. James Stuart.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words 'Every committee shall' stand part of the clause."

SIR R. B. FINLAY hoped the Committee would allow the sub-section to stand. It prevented unnecessary waste of time and trouble by having to secure the sanction of the council for every act of the committee. There was a provision in the sub-section that a committee should not raise money by loan or by rate, or spend any money beyond the sum allowed by the council.

MR. PICKERSGILL said that in the case of Municipal Corporations every act of every committee had to be submitted to the council. As the Municipal Corporations Act had been held up as a great example throughout the whole of the discussion, he failed to see why in this particular matter they should not follow the provision made in the Municipal Corporations Act.

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 182; Noes, 78. (Division List, No. 129.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)

Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of

Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Folkestone, Viscount
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of London)

Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond. (Cams.)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Houston, R. P.
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning. (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonerry)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowles, John

Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 McKillop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Marks, Henry Hananel
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monckton, Edward Philip
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
 Percy, Earl
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pilkinton, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pretyman, Ernest George
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartle'p
 Richie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James

Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox'fd Univ.)
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wght.)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell. (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Asher, Alexander
 Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Hry.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Baker, Sir John
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Crombie, John William
 Daly, James
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Dunn, Sir William

Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Hbrt. John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Ghee, Richard
 Maden, John Henry
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morton, Ed. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Malley, William
 Pearson, Sir Westman D.

Philippe, John Wynford
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifon)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfd. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notta.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES,
 Mr. James Stuart and Mr.
 Steadman.

MR. LOUGH said that as this section now read it provided that every committee should report their proceedings to the council, and to the extent to which

the council so directed the acts and proceedings of the committee should not require the approval of the council. He did not think any argument could be

adduced in support of the clause as it now stood, and he hoped the Government would see their way to accept the Amendment he now moved. If this Amendment were adopted the sub-section would read :—

“Every committee shall report their proceedings to the council, and the acts and proceedings of the committee shall require the approval of the council.”

Amendment proposed—

“In page 6, line 26, to leave out the words from the word ‘council’ to the words ‘the Acts’ in order to insert the word ‘and,’—(*Mr. Lough*)—instead thereof—

Question proposed—

“That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

SIR R. B. FINLAY opposed the Amendment, and expressed the hope that the Committee would not agree to it. It was intended that if the council chose to give to the committee the power to act without their sanction the committee should so act; but that if, on the other hand, the council reserved to themselves the right to sanction, the committee should not act without the council's sanction. As the clause now stood, he submitted it would be better than as amended by the honourable Member.

MR. STUART pointed out that the clause as it stood departed from the two precedents the Government had been endeavouring to follow. The power of allowing the borough councils to cut themselves free from responsibility for committees did not exist in the case of the County Councils or the Municipal Corporations or Metropolis Management Acts. He held that there ought to be a joint responsibility in the governing body. By this sub-section they were allowing the councils to contract out of their responsibilities.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : The honourable Gentleman is technically justified in moving his Amendment, but I do seriously thing the Committee ought not to spend much more time upon it. In the first place the honourable Gentleman is incorrect in saying there is no precedent. He will find a precedent in the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, under which a sanitary authority may appoint a committee for the purposes of the Act.

MR. JOHN BURNS : But is not that to prevent an epidemic? Those are exceptional cases.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : But there is a precedent and a good precedent for the proposal we have made. However, I do not rest it on precedent. Where there is a free library, is it not absurd that the local authority should not be able to delegate certain powers to a library committee? The sub-section appears to me an eminently rational and reasonable one.

MR. LOUGH contended that all the best precedents were on their side. Under the Metropolis Local Management Act, 1855, all committees appointed by the vestries were bound to report their proceedings to the vestries. The majority of the precedents were in their favour, but if there was no precedent, then let them make a good one now. The reporting of the committees need not necessitate any trouble or waste of time; it was merely a formal matter. If these committees were allowed to transact their business without the cognisance of the council, all responsibility would be lost. There would be no means of knowing what they were doing, and none of that useful criticism which prevented these bodies from making mistakes. Moreover, there would be more purity of administration if the acts of the committees were reviewed from time to time by the council.

*COLONEL HUGHES said that unless a Horse Committee, for instance, had power to spend money they could not go to market for the purpose of buying horses, as no dealer would let them have a horse on condition that the council approved of the committee's action in purchasing it.

MR. JOHN BURNS pointed out that as a general rule the Committee who went to purchase horses were accompanied by the surveyor, the horse-keeper, and the veterinary surgeon. They selected the horses, but no money was paid, not even a deposit. Dealers were always pleased to sell their horses to public bodies, and no difficulty such as that mentioned by the honourable and gallant Member would arise. If the committee were allowed to go to Barnet Fair with £700 or £800 in their pockets, they would probably make bad bargains and buy the worst old screws that were for sale.

MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.) said there were several precedents for the proposal in the Bill. The Technical Education Board of the London County Council had a quasi-independent existence, and had large sums placed at their disposal, in the expenditure of which they had not to secure the approval of the County Council.

MR. J. SAMUEL pointed out that even library committees, although they had powers to co-opt members, were bound to receive the sanction of the council to any expenditure they might propose. There was not a single committee in any of the

borough councils which was not compelled to report direct to the council and obtain their sanction for every penny expended. This practice prevented the friction which would be certain to occur if committees had power to decide questions of expenditure. He hoped the honourable Member for West Islington would press his amendment to a Division.

Question put.

The Committee divided—Ayes, 170 ;
noes, 71. (Division List, No. 130.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne

Fisher, William Hayes
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Folkestone, Viscount
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of London)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Green, Walford D. (Wesbury)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambridge)
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Heaton, John Henniker
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Houston, R. P.
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Cornwall)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowles, John
Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
McKillop, James
Maple, Sir John Blundell

Marks, Henry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hon. W. F.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Milner, Sir Frederick George
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monckton, Edward Philip
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Hrbt. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretymann, Ernest George
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlepool)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Round, James
Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Saunders, Rt. Hon. Col. Ed. J.
Savory, Sir Joseph
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derby)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Strauss, Arthur
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ)
Tollmache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)

Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
Wilcox, Sir John Archibald

Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

Wyville, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Austruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cheshire)
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herb. Henry
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Baker, Sir John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. Blair (Clackm.)
Billson, Alfred
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Chas.
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Clough, Walter Owen
Colville, John
Crombie, John William
Daly, James
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Dunn, Sir William
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford

Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvon)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb.)
Leng, Sir John
Macaleese, Daniel
McArthur, William (Cornwall)
McGhee, Richard
McKenna, Reginald
Maden, John Henry
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pearson, Sir Weeman D.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburn
Reckitt, Harold James

Richardson, J. (Durham S. E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfar)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Steadman, William Charles
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Ure, Alexander
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Lough and Mr. Jonathan Samuel.

It being after midnight, the Chairman left the chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Thursday.

SCOTTISH EDUCATION.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) rose to move—

"That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying her to withhold her assent to a Minute of the Committee of Council on Education, dated 27th day of April, 1899, providing for the distribution of the sum available for Secondary and Technical (including Agricultural) Education, under Section 2, Sub-section 4, of the Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1894."

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) objected to the motion being proceeded with at that hour.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR, on a point of order, submitted that this was a Minute under the provisions of the Act passed last year, in which it was provided that the money should be distributed in accordance with the conditions on which the Minutes of the Scotch Education Department were submitted to Parliament.

He wished to know whether the Minute did or did not come under the Standing Order of the House and within the definition of "proceedings made in pursuance of an Act of Parliament or Standing Order."

*MR. SPEAKER: The proceeding which the honourable Member is proposing to take is to move an Address. That is not, ordinarily speaking, a procedure under an Act of Parliament. When it is provided by a Statute that an Address shall have a particular effect if it be moved within a certain number of days, moving such an Address has been held to be a proceeding under the Statute ; but whether that is not a somewhat strained construction of the Standing Order I will not now inquire. This is not such a motion. The Statute says that certain Minutes shall be laid on the Table, and there is nothing providing that an Address moved within a certain time shall have a particular effect. It is simply stated in the Minute itself that it shall not take effect until forty days have expired. It would, therefore, be going beyond the clear meaning of the Standing Order if I were to say that the Address which the honourable Member proposes to move is a proceeding under an Act of Parliament.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said that on 27th February, 1893, an Address was moved in exactly similar circumstances. But, in view of the Speaker's decision, he would appeal to the First Lord of the Treasury. The last paragraph of the Minute declared that no action should be taken on it until it had been laid upon the Table of both Houses for one calendar month. That showed that the Department had done all it could to give the House an opportunity of discussing the Minute.

MR. BANBURY: Is not the hon. Member contravening your ruling, Mr. Speaker, in arguing the matter?

*MR. SPEAKER: I should have stopped the honourable Member if I had thought he was doing so. I understand he was making an appeal to the Minister.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire), in reply to the appeal made, said he would tell the House what he had already told the honourable Member privately—that, knowing that unless objection was taken within a month the Minute would become law, he had secured from the First Lord of the Treasury a day for the consideration of the Scotch Estimates within the statutory period. Objection, however, was taken to the day fixed—last Friday—by the Leader of the Opposition, and therefore honourable Members opposite had to thank that right honourable Gentleman for being deprived of an opportunity of raising the question. The whole matter, however, could be raised upon the Vote for the salary of the Secretary of the Scottish Education Department.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR explained that they were utterly ignorant that this motion was out of order.

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS (ENGLAND AND IRELAND) BILL.

Motion made and Question proposed—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”
—(*Sir John Lubbock.*)

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK expressed the hope that the House would permit this Bill to be read a second time that night.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said the Bill was similar to the one which applied to Scotland only, and which passed the House of Commons unanimously. He hoped this Bill would pass, and receive a better fate than the Scotch Bill in another place.

MR. ASQUITH (Fife, E.): I think we are entitled to ask what is the opinion of the Government on this Bill, because a similar Bill, which was passed unanimously in this House, was rejected in the other House, without a division, at the instance of the Prime Minister.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) said he heard the speech of the noble Marquess at the head of the Government upon the Scotch Bill with great regret. He supported the Bill now before the House, and hoped it would be read a second time.

SIR W. WALROND (Devon, Tiverton): In view of the question put by the right honourable Gentleman opposite, I think this matter must be considered by the Government, and I therefore object to the immediate progress of the measure.

Second Reading deferred till to-morrow.

EXECUTORS (SCOTLAND) ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 :—

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Thursday, June 1st.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after
Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 10th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.

(Queen's Consent signified.)

Read the third time, and passed.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO
RAILWAY BILL.FISHGUARD AND ROSSLARE RAIL-
WAYS AND HARBOURS BILL.NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY
BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read
the third time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).

Mr. Johnson-Ferguson reported from
the Committee on Group H of Private
Bills; That, for the convenience of parties,
the Committee had adjourned till Monday
next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP J).

Sir Henry Fletcher reported from the
Committee on Group J of Private Bills;
That the parties opposing the Belfast
Corporation Bill had stated that the
evidence of George Frederick Giles,
Engineer to Belfast Harbour Commis-
sioners, was essential to their case; and
it having been proved that his attendance
could not be procured without the inter-
vention of the House, he had been in-
structed to move that the said George
Frederick Giles do attend the said
Committee To-morrow, at Two of the
clock.

Ordered, That George Frederick Giles
do attend the Committee on Group J of
Private Bills To-morrow, at Two of the
clock.

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[FOURTH SERIES.]

PETITIONS.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872.

Petitions for alteration of Law;—From
Redruth;—and Sowerby Bridge; to lie
upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

Petition from Guildford, against; to
lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour;—From Robin
Hood;—Seaton Moor;—Hanley;—St.
Helens;—Great Clifton;—Broughton
Moor;—Kirkintilloch;—Deerham;—
Cammerton;—Forden;—Little Lever;—
and, West Houghton Collieries; to lie
upon the Table.

PARISH CHURCHES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Leslie, against; to lie
upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition of the United Property Owners
and Ratepayers Association of Great
Britain, against; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN
IRELAND.

Petitions against establishment;—
From Cowdenbeath;—Hawick;—and,
Selkirk; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON
SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour;—From Halton;—
Morland;—Tunstall (two);—Topsham;—
Cadbury;—Brinkworth;—Alston;—and,
Grimsby; to lie upon the Table.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMU-
NICATION, &c.) BILL.

Petition from Kilmarnock, for altera-
tion; to lie upon the Table.

TEMPERANCE REFORM (THREEFOLD
OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour;—From Stracathro;
—and, Forfar; to lie upon the Table.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour;—From Perth;—
and, Newton Stewart; to lie upon the
Table.

VACCINATION ACTS, 1867 to 1898.

Petition from St. Giles's, Camberwell,
for alteration of Law; to lie upon the
Table.

H

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PRISON ACT, 1898.

Copy presented,—of Circular, dated 25th April 1899, addressed to the Chairman of each Bench of Magistrates, calling attention to The Prison Act, 1898, and the Rules made under it (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

PRISONS (TREATMENT OF DEBTOR PRISONERS UNDER NEW RULES).

Copy presented,—of Circular, dated 25th April 1899, addressed to Judges of County Courts by direction of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, calling attention to the changes made by the Rules under Section 6 (3) of The Prison Act, 1898, with regard to the treatment of Debtor Prisoners (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2255 to 2256 (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No 503 (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

COMMERCIAL MISSION TO SOUTH AMERICA.

Copy presented,—of Reports received from Mr. T. Worthington, the Special Commissioner appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into and report upon the Conditions and Prospects of British Trade in certain South American Countries (Sixth Report) Uruguay (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS.

Copy ordered, “of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill.”—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 187.)

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Copy ordered, “of Statistical Tables relating to Emigration and Immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1898, and Report to the Board of Trade thereon.”—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 188.)

COMMITTEES (ASCENSION DAY).

Motion made and Question proposed—

“That Committees do not sit to-morrow, being Ascension Day, until Two of the clock.”—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

*MR. J. E. ELLIS (Nottingham, Rushcliffe) said that this motion was a survival, and was intended to afford Members an opportunity of commemorating one of the great Christian landmarks which they all held so sacred. But the right honourable Gentleman the Leader of the House would acknowledge, he was sure, that a proper commemoration of the event was one with which Parliamentary procedure had very little to do. It lay within the spiritual sphere with which the House of Commons had little or no concern, and the overt act of commemoration had often afforded a very imperfect indication of the real spirit of the true commemoration. The right honourable Gentleman had used the expression in reply to a question on the previous day, as to this motion “immemorial practice.” Now the right honourable Gentleman was a master of language, and if he pursued his investigations a little further he would find that the word immemorial as applied to the practice was not quite accurate. The right honourable Gentleman was, he believed, Scotch, and he must be aware that his own countrymen—whom they all acknowledged to be the most religious of nations—did not take the same view as prevailed in this country of Good Friday, for instance, and he could not admit for a moment that the Scotch did not understand that great Christian event then commemorated. The right honourable Gentleman was in a singularly unique position to make a new departure. His adherence to the Christian faith was known, and not for a moment could anyone take exception to his action on that account. If before next year

the right honourable Gentleman would make inquiry, he would realise the extreme inconvenience which this motion caused to persons engaged in important work in Committees upstairs, as well as to Members of the House itself, and the difficulties it creates, and then he might take a different view of the matter. He hoped that it would be

understood that it was not for a single moment that he undervalued this great Christian landmark that he made these observations and challenged the motion.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 184; Noes, 68.—(Division List No. 131).

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Aird, John
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Benrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bethell, Commander
Blakiston-Houston, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cruddas, William Donaldson
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Dillon, John
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Folkestone, Viscount

Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wedsbury)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Helder, Augustus
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houston, R. P.
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kemp, George
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lecky, Rt. Hon. William E. H.
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macalessa, Daniel
Macdonna, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclean, James Mackenzie
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir Herb't E.
Mellor, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Yorks.)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Milner, Sir Frederick George

Milward, Colonel Victor
Monckton, Edward Philip
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Mount, William George
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Pender, Sir James
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pilkington, Richard
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Richards, Henry Charles
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Russell, Gen. F.S. (Cheltenham)
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos. Myles
Savory, Sir Joseph
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derbys.
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.
Tollemache, Henry James
Usborne, Thomas
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Williams, Joseph Powell. (Birm)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marquiduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Bainbridge, Emerson
 Baker, Sir John
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clarke, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Crombie, John William
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert

Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
 Kitson, Sir James
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumb'land)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 M'Ghee, Richard
 Maden, John Henry

Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Perks, Robert William
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Spicer, Albert
 Strachey, Edward
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Wallace, Robert (Perth)
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. John Ellis and Mr.
 Oldroyd.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) said that in moving the Second Reading of this Bill he wished to explain to the House, in the first place, the reason why legislation was necessary to cope with the present state of things in the Church of England, and in the second place to explain the nature of the remedial legislation proposed. Having done that, he desired to meet a few objections which had been advanced in reference to this Bill. The condition of the Church of England was so well known to the House that he felt it unnecessary to describe it with any amount of detail. The House was aware that there was a section of the clergy of the Church of England—a considerable section—which was in a state of open revolt, not only against the articles and formularies of the Church, but against the law of the land. That had produced a condition of lawlessness and anarchy, and it had led to violent dissensions which threatened to rend the Church asunder. Now this was the result of a movement called by different names—called sometimes the Tractarian, sometimes the Ritualist, and sometimes the Sacerdotal movement, but which under all these names was one and the same, and the object of which was to undo the work of the Reformation, and to restore the Church of England to the condition she was in prior to that great

turning point in our history. He did not think it was necessary for him to endeavour to prove that, but he would read to the House one or two extracts which would help to emphasise this statement. In a volume of essays on Reunion, to which Dr. Pusey wrote an introductory essay, the writer stated:—

“The first great hindrance that is before us arises from the Protestantism of England. Till this is removed the Reunion of our Church as the Church of England with either the Greek or the Latin Church is hopeless.”

Lord Halifax had said

“that corporate reunion is the crown and completion of that great movement which has transformed the Church of England.”

The Rev. S. E. Cottam, in a work recently published, and dedicated by permission to Dr. Creighton, the Bishop of London, said—

“The Reformation is generally represented as an unmixed blessing, while the real truth is that it was a great calamity.”

The writer proceeded to say that

“the Anglican Church is often called Protestant, but the statement is utterly false.”

Another clergyman of the Church of England, in a sermon just published, used this expression:

“I do not admit that the Church of England is a Protestant Church.”

He thought it was almost impossible at the present day to go into any of these advanced churches without hearing from the pulpit fierce denunciations against Protestantism and against the Reformation. In fact, every effort was now being

made to indoctrinate the masses of the people with these sentiments. They had to ask, What was the Reformation? The Reformation, he thought, might be regarded in three aspects—religious, political, and intellectual. In its religious aspect the Reformation was the sweeping away of the corruption which had overspread the face of Christendom during the Middle Ages, and the restoration of the pure and simple religion of the Bible. From the political standpoint, the Reformation was the repudiation alike of the claim of the Papacy and the claim of the clergy to the domination of the Church of England, and the establishment of the Royal supremacy. From the intellectual standpoint, the Reformation was the bursting of those bonds in which priestcraft had enslaved the human intellect, the assertion of the right of private judgment, and the establishment of civil and religious liberty. Now, the Sacerdotal movement assailed the Reformation in each of these aspects. It sought to supersede the authority of the Bible by the authority of the Church and the traditions of the Fathers. It sought to reassert the claims of the bishops to domination in the Church; it sought to deny the right of private judgment, and again to subject the human intellect to priestly domination. He ventured to remind the House that this was no superficial matter. It was a movement that went to the root of their national life. It was a movement which was opposed to that progress towards the higher spirituality which they believed to be the mission, as it was the hope of the race. It was a movement which shook the very pillars of our constitution, and which was calculated to impair our national character by removing from it that love of truth and that law-abiding liberty which had hitherto been the characteristic of Englishmen. They were all proud to know that the Church was a comprehensive Church, and he should be very sorry if anything were done to limit that comprehensiveness. Rather let it be extended, provided that it was extended by constitutional means and extended all round. But he wanted to point out that the advocates of what was called the reunion of Christendom were not really broad-minded men, but were actuated by a spirit of narrow sectarianism and of intolerance, because what they wanted to do was to gratify

their preferences and the preferences of a few supporters in a way which would alienate the great mass of the laity from the Church. In illustration of this he would read a passage from the work of Mr. Cottam, from which he had already quoted :—

“It is a sin on the part of Churchmen to assist Dissenters in any way by attending their chapels or giving them money.”

They had to recognise that there were two parties in the Church, and those two parties were to be found among the clergy, among the laity, and on the episcopal bench; and it was the object of one to subvert, and the other to maintain, the Protestant Reformation. They sometimes heard of there being two extremes, and moderate Churchmen were besought by those in high authority not to ally themselves with either of these two extremes but to preserve a neutral attitude. What were those extremes? One was the extreme of loyalty; the other was the extreme of disloyalty. One consisted of men who had banded themselves together to destroy the Constitution in Church and State, and the other consists of those who were determined to oppose those efforts. What middle ground was there between those two extremes which any loyal, moderate Churchman could occupy? Were they to sit still with hands folded while their Church and the Church of their fathers was being revolutionised, transformed and destroyed? That was not only unworthy but impossible. They had to say in this matter, “He that is not with us is against us.” They found expressions of sympathy for the comparatively few against whom this agitation had been turned, while no expression of sympathy at all was to be found with the hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children of a humbler rank in life, but still of the Church of England, who had been deprived of the Sacraments of the Church and driven out by the acts of these tyrants. He fully believed it was impossible, by any act of the State, to influence those currents of thought and feeling. They were not concerned with any man's religious convictions. If a man wanted to be a Protestant let him be a Protestant; if he wanted to be a Roman Catholic let him be a Roman Catholic. They had no quarrel with the Roman Catholic Church, and if he referred to any particular doctrine of that Church he wished to do so without in any

to be appointed by Her Majesty by letters patent, and who must be a member of the Church of England. It was nothing new in the history of the Church of England for a lay court to be used for such matters. Even from the episcopal point of view it would be far better that the bishops should not concern themselves with litigation but should confine themselves to exercising their moral and spiritual influence, leaving to others the invidious duty of dealing with legal proceedings. Even at the time of the Reformation it was the law that a clergyman departing from the prescribed service should be tried by judge and jury, and that the court might be aided by the bishop, as assessor. So by this Bill it was also provided that the bishop should act as assessor, and he failed to see that that was in any way derogatory to the dignity of the bench. Already under the law three bishops acted as assessors to the Privy Council, and by this Bill, if the bishop did not care to avail himself of the power, he could appoint his chancellor or a commissary to act on his behalf. Another fundamental point of the Bill was that it abolished the bishops' veto, for which abolition he had already given reasons. It was said that this would open the door to all sorts of actions, but when it was remembered that the complainant would have to give security for costs, and that those costs would be very considerable, there would not be much danger of frivolous or unnecessary actions being brought. If further safeguards were thought desirable the promoters of the Bill would be willing to confer increased powers on the judge. Then supposing a decision was not appealed from, or having been appealed from was confirmed, it would be the duty of the bishop to inhibit the respondent from exercising his functions for three months, or until he had given an undertaking not to repeat the offence. Then if he gave the undertaking the inhibition would lapse, but if he did not make submission he would *ipso facto* be deprived of his living, and prohibited from holding any benefice or discharging any function in the Church. By that means the old method of imprisonment, which was universally deprecated, was done away with, and inhibition or deprivation substituted. It was said that the Bill established a species of persecution, but he could not admit that to be the case. On the contrary it was only carrying into the

clerical profession the rule that prevailed everywhere else—that if a man did not fulfil his position of trust he should be displaced from it. He did not ask the House now to pronounce on all the details of the Bill but rather to affirm its fundamental principles, viz., the maintenance of the supremacy of the Queen's Courts, the abolition of the episcopal veto, and the substitution of inhibition or deprivation for imprisonment. With regard to the criticisms of the Bill on his own side of the House, objection was taken to the provision that to designate any service as a mass should be illegal. He ventured to say the mass was illegal in the Church of England, and therefore any reference to it must be illegal. Prior to the Reformation sacrifices of the mass were offered in our churches and at the altar, but since the Reformation the word "mass" and the word "altar" had been excluded from the Prayer-book, tables had been substituted for altars, and the Communion Service had been transformed from a sacrifice into a commemorative feast. Yet what happened now in the lawless churches such as he had described? Why, they saw the mass revived, illegal vestments worn, the priest standing before an illegal altar, on which were placed illegal ornaments, using illegal actions and words; the very bread he administered to the communicants was illegal bread. When they attended such a service they failed to recognise it as of the Church of England, and began to wonder where they were. Perhaps they would hear something from their own Prayer-book, just to catch on as it were, and then again the service became involved in mystery; there was some kind of secret service going on in the chancel—the mass, as contained in the Roman Missal, was the basis of it, and our Communion Service was merely interpolated in it. [The honourable Member produced an altarcards, on which were set forth, for the use of the priest, opposite the various sections of the Communion Service, the corresponding paragraphs in the Roman Missal.] Not only so, but very many books were published for the very purpose of adapting the Sacrifice of the Mass to the services of the Church of England; for instance, there were "The Book of the Mass," "Ceremonial Altar Guide for Low Mass," and "Aids to Reverently Celebrating the Holy Eucharist." Then there was the curious term "the Children's Eucharist."

Mr. Charles M^r Arthur.

In some churches little children were taken by the priest and indoctrinated with these illegal views about the "Eucharist." If the House wanted an exhibition of that, they had only to go to St. Matthew's, Westminster, within a stone's throw of that Chamber. At half-past nine on Sunday mornings there was a large congregation of young children, who were taught by the aid of a service book, "printed for private circulation," but possessed by every child in the church. The children were taught to repeat the words of prayers after the priest. Of course, there was no Communion, and therefore the service was fundamentally changed. The sacrifice of the mass was offered up with accompanying incense, and the children were taught to follow and to repeat prayers and responses which they did not understand. So they were indoctrinated with these doctrines. He was not a theologian, but to his mind the book used taught transubstantiation—at all events it taught a grossly materialistic view of the Lord's Supper. This case came before the Bishop of London, but his reply was that the book was a book for private use, although it was used by every child in that church—that it did not concern a public service in that church, and that although he might personally wish to modify some of the expressions it contained, he could not say there was any language in it clearly contrary to the Book of Common Prayer. How long was this imposture to continue? He trusted that this clause, if it did nothing else, would register the determination of the Protestant laity of the country that they would not have the mass introduced into the Church of England. With regard to confession, they knew that the Church of England service did provide for confession in certain exceptional cases—the case of the sick and the case of anyone having any weighty matters on his mind, prior to desiring to attend the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. But confession in the Church of England had three characteristics—it was voluntary, it was special, and it was exceptional, because for the ordinary run of congregations the Prayer-book Service contained both public confession and public absolution. Therefore there was no ground upon which to construct a platform upon which auricular confession could be brought again into the Church of England. Still they knew that in many churches in the present day

confession was heard two or three times a week at stated hours. It had been publicly stated that at a Brighton church thousands of confessions had been heard in one year. No words could exceed the condemnation by the present Prime Minister of confession. He said :

"We know that it deteriorates the moral fibre and invades the sanctity of family life."

He might just mention that at a church in Liverpool where confession was practised a report had been sent to him by the clergyman of a neighbouring parish, in which he gave various cases in which confessions had been made and questions of a most immoral and disgusting character had been put to young women. He could not read the questions in the House—they were of such a character—but he could quote the words of one young married woman to whom such questions had been put in the confessional. She was a hardworking, respectable, modest woman, and she said that

"If ever she sees Father — coming up the street she goes another way, because she is quite ashamed to meet or see a man who asked her such filthy things."

If the clause in the Bill did nothing else it would register the determination of the Protestant laity that they would not have the confessional back into the Church of England at any cost. He ventured, therefore, to ask the House to read the Bill a second time. It might not be a perfect Bill ; no Bill ever was ; but the House should now sanction its fundamental principles, and then in Committee deal further with it. Only let it be dealt with in some way. Don't let them have any more abstract resolutions that came to nothing. The time for words was past and the time for action had come. He knew that there was a great deal of anxiety by some that the matter should be postponed in some way, and a great hope had been expressed that the agitation would subside. Some had said it was a fire of straw, and would soon die out because there was nothing for it to feed upon. Others thought that the storm would soon pass by, that the fine weather would come again, the stars come out, and that then they could do as they liked. They had very clever men to deal with, and possibly the storm might subside, but he ventured to say that if so it would only be a lull, that the storm would rise again, fiercer than ever, and that its angry front would bear the words

"Disestablishment and Disendowment." It was because he and those who promoted this measure were friends of the Church, because they wanted to save the Church from the dangers that assailed her, that she might continue her glorious work of the past, that they brought forward this Bill to make the Church subordinate to the law. The Church of England must cast out those people who disobey the law or be herself cast out. For these reasons he asked the House to pass the Second Reading of the Bill.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."
—(*Mr. A. McArthur.*)

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): I beg to move—

"That this House, while not prepared to accept a measure which creates fresh offences and ignores the authority of the bishops in maintaining the discipline of the Church, is of opinion that, if the efforts now being made by the archbishops and bishops to secure the due obedience of the clergy are not speedily effectual, further legislation will be required to maintain the observance of the existing laws of Church and Realm."

It will not be possible for me in the time which is at our disposal to deal with all the topics mentioned by my honourable friend. Perhaps I may be permitted to say that I do not altogether agree with his history, and that some of his statements were framed in rather too exaggerated language, but I recognise that those who have promoted this Bill have done so with an honest desire to do something for the benefit of the Church of England. No words will fall from me to impute to any one of them that they were not actuated by the best desire to serve the interests of that Church, although I shall have to differ from them. I agree with the honourable Member that this is neither the time nor the place for the discussion of Committee matters, and that we need not trouble about the mere details of the Bill. We should concentrate our attention upon its leading principles, and it is a satisfaction to me to know that in the brief analysis I have been able to make of it and in bringing out what I believe to be its leading provisions I am in entire accord with the honourable Member for the Exchange Division. The Bill involves, as the honourable Member has explained to the

House, three main principles. I will venture to add a fourth. The Bill contemplates the enacting, if it be not already law, that certain offences should be offences under the Statute; it establishes an absolutely lay tribunal; it permits unfettered prosecution by any two persons in the diocese, whether they have a grievance or not, and it imposes (and this is the fourth point to which the honourable Member did not specifically refer) punishments of such a rigorous and severe character that I do not think the House ought to assent to a Bill which embodies them. I believe the Bill would open the door to as many prosecutions and proceedings against those whom my honourable friend calls the loyal members of the Church as it would against those whom he called the disloyal members. If it is said that honourable Members who speak in the same interests as he has spoken do not fear that consequence, I am bound to point out at once that the House of Commons has to deal with the subject as a whole, and cannot legislate to put down practices which it assumes are going to be put in force by one set of people and are not going to be put in force by another. I submit that there is a most serious danger from that point of view, because it is upon that principle that proceedings may be taken by two persons without control or sanction, and without having any particular grievance. I agree entirely with the observations of my honourable friend with regard to the use of the word "mass." I believe it to be, I will not say an illegal word—that, of course, depends upon the sense in which it is used—but I do say it is an unnecessary word, and having regard to the construction that may be put upon it by ignorant people I think it is a word that the clergy ought certainly not to use in the services of the Church of England. Though I am not quite satisfied that the provision of the Bill is not really necessary so far as real offences are concerned, yet the language of the sub-section would, I think, be found to involve serious difficulties. I also associate myself with the honourable Gentleman in all he said with regard to confession. If there is one thing I, as a lay member of the Church of England, detest, it is the Confessional as practised, if I might be allowed to say so, in the Roman Catholic Church. I cannot myself be a party to anything of the kind in the Church of England. I would point

Mr. Charles M'Arthur.

out to the honourable Member, when he talks about new offences, that the third sub-section goes a great deal further than anything that is necessary for the purpose of detecting the abuses of the Confessional. Assuming confession to be voluntary, I cannot understand why the only person to whom confession ought not to be made voluntarily is a minister of the Church; and I cannot understand, when we know the enormous amount of good that has been done in connection with temperance work by the control of clergymen over those who take vows or pledges, why we should prohibit this practice. Coming to the three sub-sections in the clause which either declare the law or extend it, I will call attention to an extraordinary extension in the fifth sub-section—

“That anybody who authorises or assists in or is party or privy to any of the acts aforesaid, shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this Act.”

I want to know what would be the position of some clergyman who, asked to take part in a service in a church in which he has never been before, and going there with not the slightest intention of breaking the law, suddenly finds that there are some minor technical and utterly harmless and innocent breaches of the law, if I may use this Irish expression. Is such a clergyman supposed to be committing an offence because he takes part in or is privy to the continuance of these acts? It is from the point of view of the dangers of the Bill to persons who have been innocently breaking the law, as much as the Ritualists, that I ask the House to pause before it allows this declaration of offences, with its consequences, to become law. Let me mention some of the very important matters in which I am sure no ecclesiastical lawyer would deny that the law is persistently and repeatedly broken by the Low Church party—I am not blaming them at all at the moment. Take, for instance, the recital of the Athanasian Creed. There is no doubt that that is directly enjoined by the law of the Church, yet it is continually disregarded. Take the prayer for the Church militant. The recital of that prayer was made a point of indignant protest some years ago by Low Churchmen, who said they would not have their militants. There are other matters, such as daily services, services on holy days, evening services, services on Saints' days, the Litany on Wednes-

days and Fridays, the omission of the commencement of the Communion Service, the omission of the exhortation, the use of the stole or the scarf, the omission to wear a cope in the cathedral services, and the omission of children's services of praise and song. In many of these instances, nobody who has studied the question will deny that breaches of the law have been perpetually and continually committed which might be made the subject of proceedings under this Bill. We are passing a Bill for the whole Church of England, and not for one section of it. We are passing a Bill which it is said is needed in order to put down the extreme ritual to which the honourable Member refers, but there may be men in a few years or months to come, who, wanting to get rid of some clergyman whom they do not like, may be able to prove a technical offence under this Bill, and so make it an engine of oppression. It is because I am satisfied that, in the interests of the peace of the Church, this Bill does open the door to dangerous proceedings—proceedings which might be levelled against those whom my honourable friend calls loyal, as distinguished from those whom he calls disloyal—that I should certainly ask the House to consider that what I have pointed out with regard to offences under the Bill is a serious blot upon it. I now come to the second point urged by my honourable friend, and that is the complaint by two persons resident in the diocese for twelve months. Strangely enough, the only qualification those two persons are to have, apart from residence, which is really nothing, in the diocese—not even the parish—is that they are to say that they are members of the Church of England. That statement is to be final and conclusive for all the purposes of this Bill. We know what has been done in the past. I do not make any complaint of it, because we must take these risks, but we do know that it has not been infrequent for these proceedings to be taken by those who are not in fact members of the Church, and certainly not communicants of the Church. In the proceedings against the Bishop of Lincoln, if I remember aright, one of the most prominent promoters of the suit was a gentleman who was a leading member of a Nonconformist Church. I make no complaint against that, because it seems to me it may be fairly argued that those

proceedings were taken under all the restrictions which at present attach to proceedings of the kind. But there is a broader point of view from which this question should be regarded, and in regard to which I would appeal to the legal learning of the right honourable Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth. What have we been doing in every branch of the law for the last thirty or forty years? We have been endeavouring to cut the comb of the common informer, of the person who has simply walked into court in order to create litigation. The proceedings under this Bill are really in the nature of criminal proceedings. It is really a branch of the ecclesiastical criminal law, because you deprive a man of his means of living, and prevent him officiating as a minister of the Church of England, and you do in fact put into force against him about as severe a legal jurisdiction as you can possibly contemplate. Every one of the protections afforded in proceedings for libel and in regard to prosecutions under the Sunday Act is swept away by this Bill, and, as was put pointedly the other day, two men living in a remote part of London may walk into a church in the Strand, there see something they do not like, and may institute proceedings; and then, if they can satisfy the court as to costs, nobody can stop those proceedings. If I may say so, I was amused by one reference of my honourable friend to the suggestion that the costs would be a bar to these proceedings, and he read to the House with pathos in his voice a statement as to the bill of costs in three suits. Does he suppose that those costs came out of the pocket of the promoter? We know perfectly well, and it is one of the evils of these prosecutions that the House ought to be most keen to guard against, that these costs are paid not by the promoters, but by associations. I quite agree that it is a right thing that there should be associations for the purpose of preventing illegality, but I do say it is no answer to the objection that these proceedings may be taken by the common informer to say they are obliged to pay costs, because in all cases the costs will be guaranteed by some association, either on the one side or the other. I would remind the House that under the Clergy Discipline Act, passed only in 1892, it was provided with regard to moral offences that if it was thought that the complaint was vague

or frivolous the bishop might veto it, and yet I have given instances to the House in which a clergyman might be liable under this Bill for an offence to which no reasonable man would attach any importance, but in regard to which no discretion is to be allowed at all, as to whether or not proceedings should be taken. When we couple with the definition of offences this provision of the Bill which my honourable friend admits to be fundamental, that two persons out of the street, provided they can pay the costs or get someone to provide for them, may be prosecutors, I do suggest to the House that this is a class of litigation that we ought to be very slow to encourage. I now come to the Court. I do not believe that the framers of this Bill wanted to do anything which might be regarded as an affront, but I am utterly at a loss to understand how in such a matter it can be suggested that a civil tribunal should act alone without any discretion. I do not go back to the old courts, but I have never heard any objection raised to the tribunal under the Act of 1840. I would remind the House that under the Clergy Discipline Act of 1892 we sent cases to the Consistory Court, and those cases involved much less questions of ecclesiastical bearing than those raised under this Bill. It is said, and I believe it is honestly said, that there is no intention of offering an affront, but at any rate the Bill suggests a court which it is about as impossible to expect the members of the Church of England to respect as could possibly be devised. In this connection will the House consider the point as to discretion, which is most important as bearing on the question of the constitution of the court? The promoters of the Bill have not been willing to give the bishop any discretion as to whether proceedings shall be instituted. The bishop or his chancellor has to be in the room, what for I know not, except it be to tell the judge the meaning of things which he could just as easily ascertain from any ecclesiastical dictionary. There is not the slightest necessity under this Bill for the presence in the room of the assessor or the chancellor. But the promoters of the Bill are unwilling to give the bishop any discretion in the matter of trial or any voice in what the decision is going to be. They have not even given discretion to the judge, in whom they profess to have so much confidence. Why

Sir Richard Webster.

not? It is obvious that giving discretion to the judge in such matters could not possibly be approved in this House. We have judges who are Low Churchmen, judges who are High Churchmen, and some who have from time to time been in the course of transition from one faith to another. I do not wonder the promoters saw how absurd and illogical it would be to give discretion on matters of ritual, vestments, and practice to a lay judge having one or other of the qualifications I have mentioned. If the offence, technical, trivial, trumpery, or absurd, is simply brought before the court by two persons, not because they have got a grievance, not because they mind the practice, but because they dislike the man or something else, and they can prove some technical offence against him, the judge must make the order against him, and that order must be carried out. I come to the point which my honourable friend did not mention—that is, the question, of punishment. The judge is obliged to make the order, the bishop is obliged to deprive. Neither judge nor bishop has any discretion—the man must be deprived, and for a third offence not only deprived, but for ever prohibited from officiating in the Church of England. Has ever such a punishment been suggested for the meanest criminal in the land? Talk about feelings of charity towards the clergy! It is utterly impossible to read this Bill and think that those who promoted it can have appreciated what the consequences of its provisions would be. It is not very long ago that we passed the Clergy Discipline Bill, which is working extremely well, as I have known from those who have been conducting cases on more than one occasion. The House passed almost unanimously the provision in that Bill that though a man might have been convicted of an immoral offence, though a bishop and Archbishop had been obliged to deprive him, yet the Crown might pardon him, or the Archbishop might allow him to take any preferment in his diocese, which he thought it desirable he might hold. Those who promoted this Bill have totally disregarded anything like justice to the accused. So great is the desire shown to enforce a rigid law that justice has been completely and entirely lost sight of. I wish now to say a word or two on this question of veto. I agree with those who think it is possible that

the absolute veto may be for some purposes undesirable, but I am not now discussing any question of qualified veto. That is not a matter than can be discussed to-day; but I do respectfully submit to the House, for the reasons that I have urged, there ought to be some restrictions. There must be some restriction if prosecutions of this kind are going to be allowed. I do not go back on what I have said repeatedly. You cannot allow these common informers to take these proceedings without some control. Up to this moment no legislation has been passed which allows anything of the kind without some control. With whom is that control to be? Will anybody who studies the question say, looked at impartially and fairly, that, presuming a bishop is an honest, God-fearing man, and anxious to perform the duties of his diocese, the bishop is not the man to exercise control? Will anybody suggest a better official for controlling these proceedings than the man who has charge of the diocese? I do not ask anyone to accept my views of this question, but I will read to the House an opinion which will be respected, I am sure, and which will appeal especially to the Low Church party in the House:—

“The Bishop of the diocese cannot, in my opinion, be looked upon merely as a ministerial officer through whose hands process is to pass as a matter of form. He is charged with the oversight of his diocese and with a vigilant attention to its discipline, and if discretion as to proceedings in respect of the discipline of clerks is to be reposed anywhere it is in the Bishop that you would expect to find it.”

That was the opinion of Lord Cairns, one of the greatest Chancellors England has ever had, and one of the truest of Evangelical Christians. I can give honourable Members the opinions of other distinguished lawyers who have looked at this question impartially, and who have also pointed out that it is impossible to leave the discretion in other hands than those of the Bishop. I have, I hope, demonstrated to the House the injustice of allowing these free and unrestricted proceedings, and I hope I have demonstrated to the House that there must be some control, and I leave it to the House to say whether they can suggest any better controlling power for prosecutions against trivial, trumpery offences than the bishop, assuming, of course, that he is doing his duty. I claim that the principles of the Bill are unjust, unworkable, and are such as the House ought not to sanction. These

are not points of difference, but they are points which, as the honourable Gentleman in moving the Bill said, were the fundamental principles of his Bill. Coming to the substance of the Amendment, let me say in the first place that I disclaim altogether the slightest sympathy with that section of the clergy, be it large or small, that declines to obey the bishops, if it be necessary. I am aware that some who were present when the oft-quoted resolution was passed, say it ought not to be construed in the way in which it would be viewed by ordinary persons. If there be any class of the clergy who wish to be a law unto themselves, and who will not obey the archbishops or bishops or the tribunal, I have no part or lot with them. You may legislate for them, although you do not in this Bill. But I come to what I believe to be the position of 999 out of every thousand of the working priests of the Church of England. I differ with great respect from the language used by the honourable Member who moved the Bill, that there was a considerable section in open revolt, who desired to undo the work of the Reformation. I believe it to be a small section, a section diminishing daily. But it is not necessary to enter into controversial matters upon that, because I say if there is a section who are determined to disobey the bishops I have no lot with them. But what is the other position? What has been called the crisis in the Church is, I venture to say, an agitation prompted with the very best motives. Since it set in, the bishops have been searching through their dioceses and have been endeavouring to see to what extent illegal practices prevailed. The right honourable Gentleman, the Member for West Monmouth, says the bishops have been misguided in the past, and that they have not done their duty in the past, but I am speaking not of the past but of to-day. No one will get up and charge any bishop with neglect of his duty to-day. If anyone dissents from that, I suggest we ought to have the name of the bishop from those who may not have as much interest in the Church as we have. I take the position that the bishops are endeavouring to put down illegal practices in their dioceses. As to the so-called arbitration tribunal, what the Archbishop said was that he should give an independent judgment; as the Archbishop did. This tribunal has met with the authority of the Bishop of

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London on the one side and the representatives of the Church who were stated to have broken the law on the other, both being represented by counsel, and presided over by the two Archbishops. I decline to believe that any considerable section of the Church will refuse to obey the award and decision of the tribunal so constituted. I care not whether you call it an arbitration or a legal court. We know perfectly well that the representatives of the High Church—I do not mean the Romanising portion—have constantly said they would obey the ecclesiastical authority. The Bishop of Lincoln has publicly stated that whatever the Archbishops decided he would certainly obey. The bishops are endeavouring to do their best. We are in the presence of a very high ecclesiastical tribunal, who are engaged in deciding some vexed questions, and is this the time when we ought to rush into litigation? Upon this particular point the right honourable Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth and I are entirely at one as to the undesirability and the non-necessity at the present time of legislation for dealing with this matter. The House will remember that recently the Archbishops of Canterbury and of York made a pronouncement, and my right honourable friend declared that they “had confessed judgment.”

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): What I meant was that they made pronouncements, and no obedience was given to them.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER: Immediately after using that language the right honourable Gentleman goes into print, and wrote a letter to *The Times* on the 29th December, in which he said:

“I heartily trust this pronouncement of the bishops may be accepted without resistance. If it be so all will be well. If it is not, the means necessary to give effect to it are not wanting. I have never advocated fresh legislation. I regard it as superfluous. The law as it stands is amply sufficient if it is only properly employed by those whose duty it is to enforce it. The bishops cannot neglect their own prohibitions or veto their own behests.”

The point which I am making is this, that if we are to assume honesty on the part of the bishops—if we are to assume they did mean what they said a few weeks ago—then the right honourable Gentleman opposite says there is no necessity for further legislation.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: That was written four months ago.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER: Well, we shall, no doubt, have the privilege of hearing the right honourable Gentleman. We have not yet heard from anyone that the state of things is worse to-day than it was on the 29th of December, 1898, and I think many of us are satisfied that in a great many dioceses many things to which exception has been taken have at the request of the bishops been put an end to without any sort of trial at all. There is another leading Low Churchman—perhaps I ought not to call the right honourable Gentleman a Low Churchman; I don't know quite what he is in that respect—but, at all events, one leading Low Churchman, Lord Grimthorpe, has said not only that this is an impossible Bill, but that even a second reading Vote on it will do more harm than good. The honourable Gentleman who moved the second reading suggested that it was absurd to ask for time. Well, we don't ask for time in the sense of palliating the offences or anything of that kind. What we ask is time to see whether the right honourable Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth is not perfectly right in saying that the existing law is amply strong enough to deal with this matter. At any rate, whether we are right or wrong in that view, it is an additional reason for not passing such a Bill as the House is asked to assent to this afternoon. I am aware that in dealing with this case I have not referred to all the arguments that occur to one's mind, but I hope in putting the points against this Bill to the House I have used no expression that can arouse just resentment. If I have done so I am sure I withdraw and apologise for it. May I before I sit down be allowed to say exactly how this matter strikes me, not as an opponent of this Bill merely, but as a Member of this House, and as a lay member of the Church of England. I recognise that this agitation has been largely prompted by the best motives. It is obvious that it has been taken advantage of by some persons who have not got merely the interests of the Church at heart. I am not to-day arguing with those, and I am not going to approach the question from that point of view. It may be that it has been brought home to some that there exists a section—personally I believe an

infinitesimal section—who, under the cloak of their orders, are striving to Romanise the Church. No language could be too strong to speak of the conduct of such men. It may have been shown that there is another small section determined to defy the bishops and archbishops, and to acknowledge no law except the law they are unto themselves. From them I have already dissociated myself, and I have shown that I have no sympathy with them whatever. But if these two small sections do exist, I believe the result of this agitation or crisis—whatever you call it—will be that the Church will be able to purge itself of those two sections, and from that point of view I, as a Churchman, shall be only too glad of such a consequence; and then, I am sure, in the purer, brighter light, the beacon of the Church will guide many who have been tempest-tossed to the haven where only they can find rest. It is because I am convinced that this Bill, instead of pouring oil on the waters, will bring about discord and division, and bear as harshly on the loyal as on the disloyal, that I ask the House to reject the second reading, and it is because I believe my Amendment embodies the statesmanlike plan suggested by the true interests of the Church of England, that I ask the House to consider it.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'that,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House, while not prepared to accept a measure which creates fresh offences and ignores the authority of the bishops in maintaining the discipline of the Church, is of opinion that, if the efforts now being made by the archbishops and bishops to secure the due obedience of the clergy are not speedily effectual, further legislation will be required to maintain the observance of the existing Laws of Church and Realm.'"—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*MR. CHANNING (Northampton, E.): I venture to traverse the attitude which the honourable and learned Member has taken up, and to traverse it, in the sense of his last words, in the interests of the peace of the Church, in the interest of a settlement of the question, and in the interests of the principles of the Reformation, which the people of this country are looking to Parliament to vindicate at the

earliest hour. I am not here to defend or to explain the defects of the Bill before the House. I am not prepared, and do not think it necessary, to enter upon all the legal points which have been raised by the learned Attorney-General; but an experience of thirteen or fourteen years of the House convinces me that if Parliament once accepted the broad principle of a Bill, the House is fully competent to overcome any trivial legal or other difficulties of detail such as have been pointed out. The honourable and learned Member has referred to the question of costs, and gave away his argument the moment after by admitting that it was the right of bodies of laymen who wish to carry out or vindicate great principles, for which they had made great sacrifices, to meet the costs of prosecutions to vindicate the law of the Church. The Attorney-General has spoken of the Court proposed in the Bill as one that it would be absurd to expect the clergy to consent to appear before. Surely, the honourable and learned Gentleman, in so saying, was setting a most pernicious example to the people and clergy of this country! Does he not know that at the present time the Crown and the Law Courts had as much behind them the sanction of Convocation as they had the authority of Parliament and the State? The honourable and learned Gentleman, in referring to what he called the arbitration tribunal now sitting at Lambeth, was rather stretching his language when he spoke of it as a tribunal, for it was only two days ago I saw a letter from a parishioner of St. Cuthbert's who had applied for a hearing before the Archbishop for those who were aggrieved, and the Archbishop absolutely refused to hear them, while it was well known that Mr. Kensit had been refused a hearing on the ground that it was no court or tribunal. This was a vital question for the people of this country, and I do not think any question has stirred the hearts of people so profoundly within my recollection. The discussion of these questions has been bringing the people to a true sense of their position. Attempts are being made to draw red herrings across their path, but, in spite of this, the people felt the absolute necessity of dealing finally with the whole matter. This is no party question. So far as I am concerned, I would rend all party ties, in order to support the cause which this Bill strives to pro-

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mote; and I am sure the people of this country will feel profound dissatisfaction that when the House has arrived at a moment when they can come to business, we are asked to depart from what seems the clear line of duty. What did the First Lord of the Treasury say when he went down to Bristol? I do not know whether he was driven to it by the eloquent letters of my right honourable friend the Member for West Monmouthshire, or the still more eloquent demonstration of the feelings of the people of his own shade of politics all over the country during the past month, but he said at Bristol that we were all Protestants, that it was the plain right of every member of the Church of England to have a service in accordance with the Prayer Book of the Church. It was not merely the duty of the bishops, but "We, the Protestant laity of the Church have our responsibilities." It was our duty to see that the law of the Church should be carried out which guarantees the services of the Church of England without interpolation or mutilation or alteration. The laity should do their duty on this question, and the Member for the Exchange Division—whom I heartily congratulate on the extremely able and temperate speech he has made—is manfully doing his duty as a layman of the Church of England in bringing before Parliament this subject, and affording this House an opportunity of making a pronouncement upon this question. The whole of this matter depends upon the actual issues of this Bill. Those issues were broad and simple, and were intended to vindicate the principles of the Reformation. The simplest statement of these principles was that it was the right of the laity, through the Crown, the Courts, and through Parliament, to have a voice in the settlement of Church affairs, and that the Roman ideas of the Mass and the Confessional should be expunged from the practices and doctrines of the Church of England. We are asked to wait to see if the bishops will vindicate the law. I want to know whether we have any guarantee whatever that the bishops are likely to act in a sense which alone would justify the adoption of the Amendment of the honourable and learned Gentleman. What is the attitude of the Archbishop of Canterbury? I was very much struck with the correspondence some months ago between the Archbishop of Canter-

bury and a gentleman of whom I know nothing, Mr. Perryman, who wrote saying that he was not allowed to receive the Communion in the ordinary form of bread, and that wafer bread was forced upon him. He wrote a very proper letter, making a complaint, in respectful terms, to the Archbishop, which was replied to in this sense :—

“It seems to me that you are making a great deal too much of an unimportant matter.”
and again

“to tolerate both sides is a very common mode of putting an end to a quarrel.”

The Archbishop very naturally went into the historical arguments with regard to the use of unleavened bread, which I will not now bring before the House. There was not one word to indicate that the use of wafer bread was absolutely illegal, according to the decisions of the Privy Council, and could not be allowed in any church, or any recognition that it was the duty of the Archbishop to vindicate the rights of the laity in regard to this matter. This gentleman wrote again to point out to the Archbishop that the decisions in the Purchas and Clifton cases had established the illegality of this practice, and the Archbishop then replied :—

“In my letter to you I did not enter into the question of legality.”

It seems to me that there we have exactly the issue which they wanted to raise presented in a clear and concrete form. That is the judicial frame of mind we are invited to trust in the decision of vital and essential questions of Church doctrine and ritual. I venture to say that that is the crucial question of the necessity of a Bill like this. The Member for the Exchange Division spoke of the Children's Eucharists, which have become so great an abuse, of masses for the dead, reservation of the elements, and several questions of that kind. I should like to refer to only one case, and that is the action of the Bishop of London in giving the benefice of St. Barnabas, Pimlico, to the Hon. and Rev. Hanbury Tracy. The Bishops had come to an absolutely unanimous decision that certain acts and practices were to be condemned and prohibited in the Church. That was done in the month of December, and the Bishop of Bath and Wells endeavoured to enforce those decisions in his diocese. Several of the clergy behaved in a most disorderly and riotous way, and refused obedience to the unanimous de-

cision of the bishops against the reservation of the Sacramental elements. One of these clergymen who refused was the Hon. and Rev. Hanbury Tracy, who had directly set himself in defiance of the unanimous decision of the whole bench of bishops, which had only been arrived at a few weeks before. He had to resign his living owing to the position in which he was placed, but he was afterwards given the living of St. Barnabas by the Bishop of London to do as he liked with, although he had defied absolutely and refused to obey the decisions of the whole bench of bishops, to which of course the Bishop of London was himself a party. The honourable and learned Gentleman opposite has referred to great legal authorities upon the subject, and I wonder why he did not quote the words of Lord Chief Justice Coleridge on the Ritual Commission in 1883, when he declared

“The active interference of the bishops to prevent the law of the land being enforced against clergymen who had deliberately broken it, was indefensible in theory, and was becoming intolerable in practice.”

The late Lord Selborne, one of the most eminent of High Churchmen as well as of legal authorities, again and again dwelt upon the absolute necessity of obedience to the Courts of the land and the right of the Crown, as representing the laity of the country, to deal with these questions and insist upon putting an end to this attitude of general defiance to the decisions of the Courts of the land, unhappily shown by Ritualistic clergy. I have just received a communication from a clergyman whom I respect for his good work, in which he avowed in the frankest possible way that he would pay no attention to any decision of the Courts whatsoever. That no doubt is the attitude of thousands of clergymen at the present time, and this is being brought about, as the Bishop of Worcester has shown, by the steady Romanising processes in the theological colleges. The real truth is that the clergy of the present day are imbibing their religious doctrines at these theological colleges. The Bishop of Worcester in one of his charges last Autumn referred to a conversation he had with one of these young candidates for ordination. He asked him what he had read, and the reply was “I have read Pusey and extracts from Pusey,” and “nothing else.” The bishops have been for years neglecting their duty in reference

to the education given in these colleges. The late Prime Minister, Mr. Gladstone, and Lord Salisbury have again and again appointed men who had connived at this sort of thing, which had largely brought about these evils in the Church. I do not think my honourable friend is wrong in asking the House to pass a Bill of this kind. I think he is quite right in insisting that the time for action should not be indefinitely and interminably postponed. The late Archbishop of York in 1874, when Bishop of Peterborough, declared that he did not believe they could govern the Church by connivance of the bishops, nor did he believe the Church could be governed by a mere feeble Congregationalism. We all remember a recent speech of the First Lord of the Treasury, in which he gave some idea of this system of congregationalism, but I advise him to read again this speech of the most robust and manly of English Bishops, who condemned all these feeble, transient, and ridiculous modes of dealing with the difficulties of the Church. I hope on this great occasion—the only occasion this Session on which the House will have the opportunity of dealing with this vital issue, and which the people have implored us to deal with—the House would endeavour to put some pressure even now on the Government to assent to the second reading of this Bill in order to show that this is not a mere question of words, a mere question of time, but that it is a question of absolute loyalty to history, to the law of the Church and to the Constitution, and that we intend to legislate in order to carry out a proper management and administration of the Church. This is an unique opportunity. If it is lost, if the Government persist in the mistaken policy of dwelling upon comparative trifles, which the honourable and learned Member knew he could wipe out of the Bill in half an hour, instead of considering the question on which the people are demanding a decision from that House, the responsibility must rest with the Ministry. Let the Government by this step affirm the principle of early legislation. Let them show that they mean to provide an effective remedy and not acquiesce in the undignified farce now being enacted at Lambeth, and let us have a manly, straightforward vote on the issue whether there should be legislation to check these abuses or not.

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*SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devon, Honiton) said that whatever was to be the outcome of the debate and subsequent Division, they were all agreed that the voice of Parliament should find expression at the present crisis of the Church as to the course which ought to be pursued. As an Evangelical Churchman it was his earnest hope that the line taken by the Attorney-General would be followed, and that the House would say, however much it sympathises with the motives of those who had brought forward this Bill, that it was, as pronounced by Lord Grimthorpe, an impossible Bill, and one to which they could not give their assent. Since this crisis became acute, since through the action, on which he pronounced no opinion, of Mr. Kensit, it was evident the matter must be dealt with. Parliament had been asked on three occasions to pronounce an opinion on the matter. Last year, when the proposal was made to include discipline in the Benefices Bill, the House decided that it was not the right time or place. It was brought forward as an Amendment to the Address, when they were asked to say that it was the duty of the Government to bring forward legislation, and that the Government was to be censured because the subject was not mentioned in the Queen's Speech. The House, however, clearly declined to follow that lead. Again, they had had it on the motion of the hon. Member for Walsall, who departed rather from the motion he had made but amended so as to affirm the necessity of obedience as a condition precedent to promotion. There was then a remarkable expression of opinion by the House. His noble friend the Member for Gravesend then gave himself over into the hands of his foes, for the House, by an overwhelming majority of 211, affirmed the necessity of the obedience of the clergy to the law. There could be no doubt that the country expected some further steps should be taken, and that day had been looked forward to more eagerly than any debate on which the House had been engaged this session. Outside, the people had been moved in a most marvellous way, and it was no secret that inside the House hon. Members had never been so much disturbed, perplexed, and he might almost say persecuted by one side or the other, as on the present occasion. There were several classes who had to be considered. There were earnest people who

had set their hopes on this Bill, as likely to turn wrong into right, and to purify the Church of England by the drastic measures proposed in it. His sympathies were with their motives. But there was a great body of quiet Churchmen, also much disturbed, who thought that the Second Reading of the Bill would be a great danger, and that the old principles of Church government would be entirely departed from. There was another class—and he was one of them—who had looked forward to that day with intense anxiety, and who believed that unless they were rightly guided in this matter, friends of the Church would be found in different lobbies, and great damage would be done to the cause all wanted to advance. Till last night, when the Attorney-General gave notice of his Amendment, there seemed little way out of the difficulty. To vote “Aye” or “No” on this Bill, would be utterly misleading, because many who sympathised with the motives and objects which lay behind it, and were equally alive to the dangers, and equally anxious to find a right way to meet them, would have been obliged to vote against it. He thought the zeal of their friends from the north had landed them in a very great difficulty. He knew of two cases in which they had refused to take counsel with men who would have brought in a Bill which would have commanded the assent of the House. But they chose to go their own way. After this discussion, he thought they might come to something like a unanimous decision. If the mover of the Bill would accept the Attorney-General’s Amendment, the Protestant cause would be helped very greatly, far more than by voting against it. They would strengthen the hands of the Bishops to go forward with the action which he knew they were taking in many dioceses by earnest personal appeals. He believed that in many cases the Bishops were earnestly striving to do their duty. He wished to make one correction of a statement his hon. friend passed in regard to the appointment recently made by the Bishop of London. He was informed on the authority of the Bishop from whose diocese Mr. Hanbury-Tracy came that the offer was made to him some time before the protest and act of insubordination to which so much attention had been called. He was sure the honourable Gentleman would accept the assurance.

Let the Amendment be accepted as a declaration of the feeling and intention of the House and a pledge from the Government that, given time for episcopal action, legislation must follow. He deprecated litigation as an interruption and hindrance to the real work of the Church, and reminded those who were so ready to resort to law that the decisions of the Privy Council on the question of vestments were conflicting, and asked his Evangelical friends how they would receive a decision that Eucharistic vestments were compulsory. Litigation should be the last recourse. The veto of the Bishops should be modified, not abolished; and on the question of deprivation all that was necessary was to make clear the power of the Court under the Church Discipline Act, 1840. The Privy Council had laid down in the Gorham case that it had no jurisdiction to settle matters of faith or determine particular doctrines, but only to say whether practices were repugnant to the law of the Church; and the Commission of 1881 proceeded on the right assumption that every subject of the Crown who felt aggrieved by a decision of an ecclesiastical Court had an indefeasible right to approach the Queen with a representation that justice had not been done, and of that right no ecclesiastical Court could deprive him. A Bill on such lines would have a very different reception to the Bill which they were discussing. But the real remedy was not to be found in recourse to the Courts, but in the encouragement of a law-abiding spirit. Legislation would never touch the root of the mischief, and ritualistic ceremonies and practices were only symptoms of graver questions behind, only to be dealt with by a higher Power. He earnestly appealed to the promoters of the Bill to be content with the great success they would achieve by the passing of the Amendment, which would not accentuate division of opinion in the Church and which embodied a declaration and pledge satisfactory to earnest Churchmen. Let them not hurry. The matter was too grave to be hurried. Let time be given to the officers of the Church to do their duty, and as it was admitted that legislation was and must be necessary, the object of the Bill would be advanced not one step but several steps if the Amendment were affirmed by the almost unanimous vote of the House. The opposite

result would be that the Protestant party would be split in two. He appealed to honourable Members to remember that they were not merely delegates but loyal men and Churchmen, desiring only what was best. It was because he believed that the Bill would disturb and distress beyond measure the Moderate Churchmen, would swell the ranks of the Ritualists, would rejoice the hearts of those who were eager for Disestablishment, and would split their grand old Church asunder, that he would earnestly support the Amendment.

*Mr. J. W. MELLOR (York, W.R., Sowerby) thought it was desirable that some remedy should be found for the present remarkable state of things. His right honourable friend who had just sat down had said that we ought to encourage a law-abiding spirit; he had always found that the best way to do that was, to provide an effective remedy to prevent it. Then the Attorney-General told them that the Bishops were a very earnest body of men who were searching their dioceses for cases of infringement of the law, and then he went on to say that the Bishops were doing their work well, and he objected to any interference with their veto, and also said any such interference at the present time would be most detrimental. According to the opinion of the Attorney-General things were going remarkably well; there were a few, he said, who were not obeying the law, but he seemed to think that the Bishops would soon put an end to that. If things were going on so well, how was it that in the opinion of the Government further legislation might be necessary? If the Attorney-General is right, instead of the extraordinary and vague Amendment they had heard, surely he ought to move that the Bill be read a second time this day six months. What was the legislation that was to be expected if the Bishops did not succeed in their efforts? The Attorney-General never told them or made a suggestion or, indeed explained in any sense the nature of the legislation that they were to expect. They were absolutely in the dark. He could not help thinking the Attorney-General and the Government must make a more careful examination of this matter. The Amendment said—

“That this House, while not prepared to accept a measure which creates fresh offences and ignores the authority of the bishops in maintaining discipline in the Church, is of

opinion that if the efforts now being made by the archbishops and bishops to secure due discipline are not speedily effectual further legislation will be required to obtain the observance of the existing laws of the Church and realm.”

At what date did the Attorney-General expect that the efforts that were being made would be effectual? They had had 60 years or more of time in which to secure obedience to the law. Disobedience began in 1834, when it was introduced by Dr. Pusey and Dr. Newman. They had been told over and over again that the Bishops would speedily find a remedy. It is obvious that either the Bishops are unwilling to act or that they want greater powers, and those this Bill affords. What then did the Amendment mean by saying “that if the efforts now being made are not speedily effectual”? Did it mean at the end of this year or at the end of ten years, or was the thing to go on increasing for another 60 years? The number of churches in which the teaching of false doctrine and Ritualism prevailed, had increased from two churches in 1834 to between 7,000 and 8,000 at the present time, and they could see evidences all round that so far from this diminishing, it was rampant. He was sorry to have to say it, but the lawless clergy had succeeded in capturing, not only many of the primary schools, but also many of the boarding schools. He appealed to the House whether in the circumstances some legislation was not necessary. He did not wish to do anything unreasonable, or to drive people out of the Church; he would be sorry to do anything to affect seriously the comprehensive nature of the Church of England; but surely if the Bishops had failed, which it was of no use to deny, was it not time that the representatives of the nation should interfere and endeavour to provide some effectual remedy? Cardinal Vaughan, who was extremely astute, and whose information was probably better than that of the Attorney-General, boasted that from more than a thousand Church of England pulpits in this country the doctrines of his faith were being taught. The remedies against Ritualism at present provided by Parliament were so complicated and expensive that the law-abiding bishops shrank from using them, and the result was a general disposition to exercise the veto so conveniently provided. The Attorney-General claimed that the veto was

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exercised with discretion and judgment ; but the present Primate, when Bishop of Exeter, had declared that in exercising the veto he would be bound by no decision and would act absolutely irresponsibly. There were 22 cases in which the episcopal veto had been exercised ; in substance they might take it that of late years the Bishops had stopped all proceedings. As had been truly said by the Bishop of Winchester some years ago in Convocation, the very knowledge of the existence of the veto had prevented hundreds of cases from going forward. The Attorney-General was very much horrified because he thought that the Bill recognised the existence of something like the old common informer, but it should be remembered that what created the prejudice against the old common informer was that he received half the penalties, which was not the case in this Bill. The fact that complainants would have to give security for costs to the same extent as in a civil action would be a sufficient guarantee against the bringing forward of frivolous or mere harassing prosecutions. The maintenance of the veto was practically the denial of every man's constitutional right to go into the courts of the Queen for justice. It was true the Attorney-General possessed a power of veto over certain classes of prosecutions, but then there was a difference between the Attorney-General and a bishop. The Attorney-General was responsible to that House for any wrong exercise of his veto, but the Bishops were not. Of the members of the Royal Commission who considered the matter in 1883, Archbishop Thompson of York, the late Lord Coleridge, the Dean of Arches, the Earl of Chichester, Dean Perowne, Sir J. Parker Deane, Sir Francis Jeune, and the Rev. Chancellor Espin, eight representative men of eminence in the Church, were unanimous that the veto at present enjoyed by the Bishops ought not to be permitted. The Bishop of Worcester had expressed a very strong opinion that the veto could not remain in force ; and the veto had also been most strongly condemned by the late Lord Bramwell. They had heard of the money spent in costs under the present procedure. The costs in the case of *Martin v. Maconochie*—in which fourteen years were taken to deprive Mr. Maconochie—were for the prosecution £10,000, and for the defence £7,485. Then one case under the Public Worship

Regulation Act cost about £5,000. With such costs, was it not time that something was done to apply a remedy ? There was only one remedy before the House at the present time, and that was this Bill. As he heard the Attorney-General criticise its details, he thought it was never very difficult to criticise any Bill upon the Second Reading ; but let the House remember that it laid down some propositions which he thought the great majority of Members would accept. The first proposition was the abolition of the veto. Did anybody suggest that when the Government brought in their promised legislation they could offer the House less ? What would be the use of legislation if the Government allowed the veto to remain ? Another proposition was to substitute deprivation for imprisonment. As to fresh offences the Bill did not alter the existing law except as to remedy. Every one of the offences mentioned in the Bill had been already condemned in the Ecclesiastical Courts or the Privy Council. Why was the Church of England to be in a different position from every other religious body in the world, and not to be able to get rid of a minister who broke its laws ? How long would the Roman Catholic Church allow a priest, or the Presbyterian Church of Scotland allow a minister, to remain who broke the laws of his Church ? Then why should not the National and Protestant Church of England have a similar remedy ? When the Government brought in their legislation in 10, 20, or 50 years time, would they offer any other punishment than deprivation ? The Attorney-General had spoken of the cruelty the Bill might inflict upon some poor Evangelical clergyman who committed some small breaches of the law. The Bill was to stop the teaching and practice of Romish doctrines and ceremonies in the Church of England, and not to punish small or harmless breaches such as he had described ; they were quite prepared to take the risk the Attorney-General had mentioned if that was all. The Attorney-General, however, took no notice of the part of the Bill which enacted that before any proceedings could be taken the Bishop should have a month within which he could communicate with the clergyman, remonstrate with him, and exercise his authority. Surely that was long enough. If not they could alter that in Committee.

Another part of the Bill provided that the prosecution could only be for an offence committed after the expiration of that month, so that it must be repeated. Moreover, deprivation did not follow as a matter of course, but if the clergyman would sign and file a promise not to repeat the offence there was an end to the prosecution. Was that cruel or unfair? He could only say that the argument that the Bill was disrespectful to the Bishops was one more experience of the extraordinary ingenuity of the Attorney - General. There was nothing novel in the court as proposed. The promoters got their idea of it from the Statutes of Edward VI., which provided that a judge and Bishop should sit together. It was no more derogatory for a Bishop to act as assessor under the Bill to one judge than for a Bishop to sit as assessor to a number of judges sitting in the Privy Council, and such a plan the Archbishops had agreed to formerly. If the Government wished to amend the Bill they, with their majority, were absolutely masters of the situation. They could postpone the operation of the Bill for six months, or a year, if they wished to give the Bishops time, or make any amendment in it they liked. Why, then, was this dilatory Amendment moved? There was not an offence in the Bill but had been condemned alike by the Ecclesiastical Courts and by the whole of the bishops at Lambeth, a short time ago. Was it unreasonable to ask the House to come to the conclusion that such practices should be condemned by the Bill as offences? If they checked the Protestant feeling of the country by rejecting the Bill they would be doing an injury which it would be difficult to repair, and they would make people think they would have to look somewhere else for a remedy than to the Constitutional House of Commons. He hoped the House would reject an Amendment which would defeat the Bill, and gave no immediate prospect of any other legislation.

LORD H. CECIL (Greenwich) said he desired by the indulgence of the House to begin his observations by one or two remarks which he was aware were not in very good taste. With regard to his own religious standpoint, he was told by people who were in a position to know, and whose information he could not disrespect, that he was supposed to be a very extreme

Ritualist. He thought it was desirable to explain that this was not the case. He did not belong to any one of the societies of which they had heard so much in the debate, and he was not an attendant of any church which could be described as ritualistic. When he was in London the most advanced church he attended was St. Paul's Cathedral. Neither was there ground for the supposition entertained outside the House that he represented the views of the Government or of some members of the Government. Nothing could be more untrue. He had spoken several times in the House, and he believed that in the majority of cases he had criticised with more or less hostility the action of the Government, and he thought therefore the suspicion was unreasonable. So far as people might object to the notice that appeared in his name on the Paper, they ought to concentrate their fury on himself; he was not afraid of their indignation, and they were welcome to do their utmost against him. At any rate, the Government was not responsible, directly or indirectly, and they knew nothing about it. He would not detain the House over what appeared to him to be the less important parts of the Bill. In regard to the Amendment of which the Government had given notice, he would say frankly that he did not like it. He should greatly have preferred that the issue should have been fought on the notice which stood in his own name or that which stood in the name of the honourable Member for Walsall, because that, he thought, would have been a much more rational and courageous way of dealing with this matter. Though he did not think the course taken by the Government was a very wise or a very dignified course, he was not put in the position of being obliged to vote against them, because the question was to be that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question, and as he was very much opposed to the words in the original question, "That the Bill be read a second time," he should have no hesitation whatever in voting against the inclusion of those words. But since legislation was referred to in the Amendment, it would be perhaps as well to say that whenever legislation might be brought forward of the same kind as the present Bill, which aimed at removing the disciplinary authority from the bishops to a

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ay tribunal, that legislation, from whatever quarter it emanated, would be strenuously and uncompromisingly resisted. He need hardly assure hon. Members that it was quite impossible for those who took his view of the Church's true character to agree to any further intrusion of lay tribunals, some of which had gone rather far already to destroy whatever authority the bishops now exercised. That would be to make the situation quite intolerable. He would say a few words, not about the new offences which, he thought, were constituted under the Bill, but about the procedure by which it was sought to enforce the law against those offences. That procedure had been described repeatedly to the House. Any two persons professing to be members of the Church of England in a diocese might set the law in motion. The whole jurisdiction would lie with the lay judge, with an appeal to the Privy Council. The bishop was to be present as an assessor to give what assistance the judge required, and to execute the orders the judge might give. He should like to contrast the attitude of the Bill with the language of the Prayer-book about the office of bishop as it was found in the beautiful service for the consecration of bishops. He need not remind hon. Members of the original preface that had been often quoted from the Anglican Prayer-book, in which it was said—

“It is evident unto all men diligently reading Holy Scripture and ancient authors that from the Apostles' time there have been these orders of ministers in Christ's Church—bishops, priests, and deacons.”

He noticed that the hon. Member who moved the second reading regarded it as having a dangerous Romanising tendency that people should appeal to the primitive Fathers. That struck him with amazement. The hon. Member must be aware of the appeals to the primitive Fathers in so distinctly a Protestant book as Cranmer's Book of the Lord's Supper, for adhesion to which Latimer was burnt.

MR. CHARLES MCARTHUR said what he objected to was not the quoting of the authority of the Fathers, but the substitution of their authority for the Scriptures.

LORD H. CECIL thought no one substituted the authority of the Fathers for the authority of the Scriptures. He

would draw attention to the description of the office of bishop as they learnt it from the Prayer-book itself. They learnt, for example, early in the service that he was a person to whom government in the Church of Christ was committed, and the words “admitting any person to government in the Church of Christ” were used. What kind of government was there left to the bishop in this Bill? Then they learnt, after the striking exhortation that followed the consecration, that he was to “be so merciful, that you be not too remiss; so minister discipline, that you forget not mercy.” What opportunity had the bishop under this Bill of showing mercy to any person? But the most conclusive part of the consecration service for the purposes of this discussion was in the question that was put to the bishop in examination, and which was utterly irreconcilable with the view of the present Bill—“Will you maintain and set forward, as much as shall lie in you, quietness, love, and peace among all men; and such as be unquiet, disobedient, and criminous, within your diocese, correct and punish, according to such authority as you have by God's Word, and as to you shall be committed by the ordinance of this realm?” It was clear it was contemplated under this service that the bishop was to have the discipline of the Church, that he was to be able to punish or not punish. Was that recognised in the present Bill? Had the bishop the smallest choice in the matter? Of course he had not; the whole matter was taken entirely out of his hands. The bishop was described as having authority from two sources, having it “as you have by God's Word, and as to you shall be committed by the ordinance of this realm,” showing that bishops of the Church of England were supposed to act, as it were, on double authority. In one of the letters of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire (that had been so complimentarily referred to, and to the literary vigour of which he cheerfully gave the tribute of his admiration, because it was almost the only merit that he could recognise—in one of those letters the Archbishop of York was severely blamed for saying that he had any authority prior to the law of Parliament. The right hon. Gentleman would observe on reflection that that was precisely the language of the Prayer-book. The bishops were supposed to have an authority quite

independent of the law of the land, derived from God's word. That authority, however, was altogether ignored; there was not a word about it; it was not contemplated that such an authority existed. When they heard accusations of disloyalty against the Book of Common Prayer, he would say that to the Church of England nothing could be more disloyal than such an attitude towards the Episcopal office, because the Church of England did not more emphatically reject the Papal authority than it adhered to the Episcopal authority which was so essential a feature of the Church of England. Then, as regarded the committal of authority "by the ordinance of this realm," the Bill proposed to take away that authority in a manner quite contrary to the meaning and intention of the question in the Prayer-book, so that the question under this Bill would be a mockery in regard to matters of ritual. The Bishop would be obliged to say, "I should be very glad to exercise the authority you speak of, but that authority has gone away from me; it is in the hands of a Judge in the High Court who is stimulated to action by two persons who may have resided for 12 months in the diocese." These might be two convicts recently relieved from Dartmoor Prison. Then, finally, the Bishop was reminded that "God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and soberness." He did not think that under this Bill a Bishop required any qualities so impressive as that; all that he would need for the purposes of this Bill were the childish virtues of speaking when he was spoken to and doing what he was bid. He opposed this Bill, therefore, first of all because it was fundamentally opposed to the Prayer-book conception of the office of Bishop. He should oppose it not less if it were directed to correct evils greater even than Ritualism; if it were directed to put down Unitarianism, which was supposed to be growing in the Church, he should resist it not less vehemently than he did. The particular opportunity on which this question was raised was of the smallest importance. The Bill itself would overthrow the true spiritual character of the Church's primary authority, and that was why those who thought with him, and with his noble friend the Member for Rochester, could not possibly, under any circumstances, assent to its second reading. He was told sometimes that all

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these arguments were out of place, that they were 300 years too late, and that the Royal supremacy carried with it the idea that the State was to determine all spiritual questions which would arise in regard to the Church's services. That was quite an unhistorical opinion. He could quote the proclamation of Queen Elizabeth herself, who certainly was not disposed to under-rate her own authority, and of whom it could not be denied that she was generally regarded as the typical Protestant Queen. She issued a proclamation in 1570, which was hung in every parish church in England. He would quote from Mr. Froude's history:—

"Elizabeth admitted that 'the external ecclesiastical policy of England differed in some respects from that which was established in other countries, and occasions had been sought to trouble weak consciences on this ground. Simply, however, she declared that she had neither claimed nor exerted any other authority in the Church than had attached from immemorial time to the English Crown, although that authority had been recognised with greater or less distinctness at different times. The Crown challenged no superiority to define, decide, or determine any article or point of the Christian faith or religion; or to change any rite or ceremony before received and observed in the Catholic Church. The Royal supremacy in matters spiritual meant no more than this—that, she being by lawful succession Queen of England, all persons born in the realm were subjects to her and to no other earthly ruler.'"

How was this Bill consistent with that Royal proclamation? Under this Bill a strictly State court could define every conceivable point of rite and ceremony, and enforce their decision. He knew that people would say that the court in this case only exercised an interpretative power; but really it was important that they should realise that interpretation did change, and necessarily change, the law. Every jurist was, of course, familiar with that fact. All branches of our law depended almost entirely upon a series of judicial decisions which had created the law. Of course in a case like that it could not be said that a lay court would be "interpreting" the law. It merely altered the law every time a decision was made. New precedents were formed, and in substance the distinction between courts of law and the Legislature was this, that the Legislature altered on a large and wide scale, and courts of law only within certain defined limits. Therefore when people said that the court would only "interpret" the

law, they were the victims of confusion of thought. But 'perhaps it might be said that under this Bill things would be no worse. That was not the fact. There were now certain courts which were of a spiritual character. The Bishop's Court had still, he thought, a perfectly spiritual character; but still more important was the power exercised by the bishop in the matter of his veto. The bishop had a spiritual authority, and that he could bring to bear by the machinery of his veto. Personally, he did not think it was quite an ideal system, but so long as the system went on it was essential to maintain the episcopal veto as the true resource of the spiritual authority which really made that authority a reality. He did not know of a single Christian community in the world—although he did not know the system in Germany or Scandinavia—that submitted its doctrine or ceremonial to the jurisdiction of lay courts, except, in a modified degree, the Church of England. Of course no dis-established body did so. [Opposition cheers.] He knew very well what was the policy of hon. Members opposite. They were anxious to hold the spiritual life of the Church up to ransom. Every footpad knew how to cry out, "Your money or your life!" The Church of England was not in such a position that it needed the assistance of those who were her professed opponents in these matters. She would maintain her spiritual independence. She would obtain doubtless in process of time from the justice of the community any alteration of the law which might be necessary, but she would never yield, he hoped, to the unscrupulous policy of those who attacked her established and endowed position—those endowments which the piety of preceding generations had given up for the glory of God and the service of man. They would maintain to the end both their free and their established position. Objection was taken by some to the veto on the ground that it was exercised by bishops in whom they had no confidence. That would be a very good ground for removing the Bishops from the positions which they held; but it was not an arguable proposition to say that, because particular holders of the office did not exercise their authority rightly, therefore the authority of the office was to be destroyed altogether. He should like to ask how long it was since

the Bishops became untrustworthy. They had been told that the veto had not been exercised since 1850. Had there been no trustworthy bishops since 1850? The veto was capable of being exercised in the Dioceses of Liverpool and Worcester to-day. Were the Bishops of Liverpool and Worcester Romanisers in disguise? Hon. Members did not seem to realise that the veto would not be exercised by an Evangelical prelate unless there were very good reasons against prosecution—reasons which were altogether fatal to this Bill. The policy of prosecutions was condemned not less by Evangelical bishops, such as the Bishops of Liverpool and Worcester, than by the most High Church prelate on the bench. Passing from the theoretical to the practical aspect of the question, he said he should like to ask hon. Members how the Bill would work if passed into law. Let them follow it out in imagination. They had been told, and it was a most remarkable circumstance—indeed, it deserved the most anxious attention of the House and the country—that objection was felt to the whole school of thought which was called Tractarian. Was the programme of the promoters of this Bill to deprive of a cure of souls the whole Tractarian or High Church party? If so, they ought to know. The High Church party had been abjured to make common cause against the extremists, whose practices they severely condemned; but now it seemed to be said, if not avowed, what, indeed, he had always suspected, that the objects of attack were not a few extremists, but 7,000 or 8,000 representatives of the school of thought which began in 1834. Did hon. Members call that their idea of a comprehensive Church in which their first step was to exclude 7,000 or 8,000 of the clergy? He had spoken of St. Paul's Cathedral. He imagined the clergy of St. Paul's Cathedral would be amongst those against whom it was designed to use the powers of this Bill. Certainly prosecutions might be initiated against these clergy. Was it conceivable that they could carry out 7,000 or 8,000 prosecutions throughout the country? Had anybody reflected what the condition of the country would be while they were going on with their 7,000 or 8,000 prosecutions? They would have to go against every single High Church clergyman. They would have to face all the legal expenses and obstacles he could

throw in their way. They would have to face not only the opposition of the clergyman, but in an enormous majority of cases the violent opposition of the parishioners. Why, before those 7,000 or 8,000 prosecutions had gone on for two months, the Church of England would be broken hopelessly in two, or the House would, in dust and ashes, repeal the Act it had foolishly passed. He therefore conceived that the prosecutions under this Bill would fail in their object. It was quite impossible to deprive so large a number of clergymen as the promoters of this Bill apparently contemplated dealing with. But was there no alternative? He believed the alternative was to be found in an appeal to an authority which the whole High Church party looked to—the authority of the bishops. That authority was being exercised at the present time, and exercised with no common measure of success, against what was illegal. He believed the archbishops, in the tribunal they had set up, would come to a wise and independent decision, and he had not the least doubt that the overwhelming mass of the High Church clergy and laity would defer to that decision whatever it might be. Trust, then, the bishops, and they had some prospect of putting a check to extreme practices. Interfere recklessly, and set up a tribunal which not even the most moderate High Churchman would respect, and they united them with the most extreme in one common scheme of resistance against this attack. The true statesmanship, the true policy, was to do what the mover of the Bill supposed to be impossible—to find the moderate men who did not belong to the extremists on either side, and rely on them to guide the Church of England out of the dangers which beset her path. He entreated, therefore, the House to reject the Bill, not for the sake of the Ritualists, not for the sake of the extreme people, but for the sake of the Church of England herself. Was it possible for anyone, even her most pronounced opponent, to contemplate without regret the prospect of the intrusion into her midst of all kinds of bitterness and uncharitableness? He entreated hon. Members to rise to the height of the calling which the laws of this country put upon them. They were the appointed guardians of the Church. Many hon. Members opposite thought they ought not to be so. But they were

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so. Theirs was a position of trust; they were the appointed guardians of the Church. If they failed in that position of trust they failed in one of the most sacred duties which was laid upon them. They kept the gates of God's vineyard. If they did not do their duty there would rush in those ancient enemies of the Church—bitterness and uncharitableness, bigotry and narrowness—that had so often devastated her work. But if they did their part the Church of England would go on with her evangelical work. She would go on preaching the Gospel which it was her mission to preach, and they would have the satisfaction of knowing that they had stood between good and evil, that they had saved the work of a great religious body from the dangers that threatened it, and that they had done their duty by the Church of which they were the appointed guardians, and which was to some of them so inestimable a blessing.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I very sincerely reciprocate the gracious compliments of the noble Lord, and I can say, in common with all the members of this House, that I always listen to him with pleasure, though I differ from every opinion which he expresses. Now, Sir, I know this is not the time to go into any of these theological discussions; otherwise I think I should be disposed to contravene the opinion of the noble Lord on the lay supremacy of the Crown as governing the Church of this country. Sir, I would rather ask the House, what is the practical situation in which we find ourselves to-day? Nothing, I think, can strike anybody more than the extraordinary change of the attitude of this House in the course of the last eight or nine months. When you recollect what was the tone that was taken up upon the benches opposite upon this question in June and July last, how it was considered that for this House to interfere in these matters and with these grievances was highly improper, and how the question was represented as simply a question of the action of a few extreme men not worthy of notice, and when you see these crowded benches this afternoon, representing, I believe, the anxiety of a great body of people in this country, you will feel that something has happened which deserves the attention of the House. Now, what has happened? Though it was endeavoured to minimise and get rid of

this question nine months ago, the question has continued to occupy the attention of the country more and more. A remedy has been demanded, and, in my opinion, reasonably and justly demanded, for grievances which are widely and, I may say, universally felt. The Attorney-General to-day declined to use the phrase "crisis in the Church," and said this was an agitation of well-meaning people. Well, his squeamishness about the word "crisis" is not shared by his colleagues, because the seriousness of the crisis in the Church was declared by the First Lord of the Treasury not long ago at Bristol in a good Protestant speech, and it is not two days ago since there appeared a letter of the Prime Minister's in the newspapers which declared his sense of the seriousness of the crisis in the Church, which the Attorney-General regards apparently with a light heart. Then, Sir, there is another remarkable fact, and it is well worthy of observation. The Amendment put forward by the Government I understand is a Government Amendment, which pledges the Government under certain circumstances themselves to legislate upon this subject, and is a declaration that, unless speedily these grievances and these offences are dealt with, it is the duty of Parliament, under the guidance of the Executive Government, to bring that Parliamentary authority which the noble Lord so scornfully rejects, to bear upon [the Government of the National Church for the correction of the offences of the clergy, and to compel them by the highest authority in the realm to obey the law of the land. But that is a declaration which belongs both to this Bill and to the Amendment. It is the assertion on both sides of the House, and I believe by the enormous majority of the House, and the enormous majority of the Churchmen of this country, that the authority of the Crown and of Parliament in the last resort is superior to the ecclesiastics. That is the proposition that underlies both this Bill and this Amendment, and so far, I think, a great step has been taken in the assertion of a principle which is absolutely indispensable to an English Church. Then we have made some progress, I think, since June, 1898. Well then, Sir, what has been the condition of things which has brought about the necessity for this debate? What has brought about the feeling that has aroused the resentment that is felt by the

great body of the people of this country against that which has been going on among the clergy? I understand it is the refusal to be bound by the law, the declaration that we have heard from the noble Lord that there is to be no lay authority, the denial of all that which follows from the fundamental fact of the Reformation, the submission of the clergy, and the transference of the authority of the Bishop of Rome to the Sovereign as representing the laity in this country. All that is denied, obstinately, openly denied, by great bodies of the clergy in this country. Here, at least, we are to-day, whether upon the Bill or upon the Amendment, to absolutely put our condemnation on such doctrines as that. We are here to say that the Crown and Parliament in these matters are supreme, and that what they think fit or do not think fit to deny or assert in this matter, is binding upon the clergy of the Church of England. That is the root principle which we are here to affirm. Well, Sir, how has this disturbance arisen? It is not denied that a great number of practices have arisen in this country that are contrary to the law of the Church and of the realm—that is admitted. The bishops have said so. The authorities to whom the noble Lord refers—the whole government of the Church—have asserted that a great number of these practices are illegal and contrary to the rule of the Church and the law of the land. But why have they been allowed to continue? How did they arise? How have they grown to their present magnitude? Nobody denies that it has been either by the negligence or by the connivance of those who had the power, and whose duty it was to put an end to them. The Bishop of Winchester, a prelate of great sagacity and ability, has admitted that the bishops in times past have been too casual. Then this is a casual negligence which has arisen, and led to a large departure from the law of the land and of the Church. But when attention was called to it in this House, and still more in the country, what has been the course that has been taken? What effectual measures have been resorted to to put an end to this lawlessness in the Church of England? We are asked, practically speaking, in the Amendment of the Government, to place confidence in bishops. Well, sir, I am reminded of the celebrated phrase of Lord Chatham's:

Ecclesiastical Court. That would have been a regular proceeding; it might have eventuated in a judgment which might have been enforced; but now no one believes the decision to be binding on anyone. They could also have gone to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and then the decision would have been binding. Why have they not taken that course? They thought that the object of the veto was to maintain the spiritual authority of the bishops. How is it maintained? By preventing the law of the land from operating and thereby keeping the whole jurisdiction in the hands of the ecclesiastics. That is the object of the veto, and it is for that purpose it has been worked; but this is an entire abuse of the veto and of the intention for which it was given. The veto was given for the purpose of preventing vexatious and frivolous proceedings. It has been used, wrongly used—I was going to say unscrupulously used—for the purpose of preventing the law of the land from operating in the most important cases. I hoped that the Amendment which was moved by the Government meant a great deal more than I can believe it to mean after the speech of the Attorney-General. I must say that the tone of that speech was a sort of disbelief in any real substantial grievance—the disparagement of anything like effectual remedies. The language held on the subject of confessionals and on the veto did very much to destroy the value of the Amendment which the honourable and learned Gentleman moved. What is valuable in that Amendment is the recognition that it is the right and duty of Parliament to interfere in this matter, but when I come to judge from that speech in what direction and to what extent the Attorney-General will interfere, I must say that it is most unsatisfactory. As I say, we have not yet got on the part of the bishops anything like an attempt at effectual action. What is now going on is not effectual action at all, and will not lead to any effectual action against anyone who chooses to resist. Therefore, it seems to me that the time has come when the House of Commons shall take effectual action of one kind or another—that is what we have to look to. We cannot accept this dilatory plea as it is raised in the speech of the Attorney-General. He says “if the bishops do not succeed in what they are

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doing”; at the rate at which they are going on, they are not likely to succeed. They have abstained altogether from taking any measures which are likely to succeed, or which have succeeded in the past, and therefore the House of Commons will see that some measures on its part are obviously necessary. Can honourable Members opposite, who know as well as we do the feeling of the country, contend that things can be allowed to go on as they are now, with any security to the Church of England, for another twelve months—for that is the practical effect of of the Amendment? If the Government think it right for them to bring forward a Bill on this matter, why do they not bring it forward? What is wanted in this matter, as I have always said, is not so much a change in the law as some means of making the existing law work. You have to remove the obstacles standing in the way of the operation of the existing law, which is sufficient for the purpose. Of course, everybody knows that Mr. Maconochie was deprived and that Mr. De la Bere was deprived. But it is said that that cannot be done except at great cost. I am speaking now on the advice of one who knows more about this point than anyone else when I say that it is an entire mistake that these proceedings need be very costly. I said to this authority that I believed the thing might be done for £500, and he replied that it could be done for £100 with the greatest ease under the Church Discipline Act. Therefore, if people are in earnest to try, only in a single case, the legitimacy or the illegitimacy of these transactions, there is not the smallest difficulty in the way. The last nine months have been absolutely wasted; and the question is whether you are going on for twelve months more, leaving the country in a state of disquiet, as it is, about these practices. I think it would be extremely unsafe to do so. With reference to this Bill itself, there is a great deal in the Bill in which I do not concur at all. I differ from a great many of its provisions, and I agree very much with the criticism of the Attorney-General. But, at all events, this Bill asserts the necessity of some action in this matter. I agree in the necessity of taking action against the establishment of the confessional. I agree in the necessity of removing the veto, or, at all events, of limiting the veto to simply the most trivial and

most vexatious things. Because the vote not only may be used, but has been used, to set aside and paralyse the law of the Church and the law of the land in this matter. Therefore, if we did nothing else but put a stop to the veto to-day we should be doing that which we ought to do and which would do much to satisfy the mind of the country. Therefore, Sir, when the question is put whether this Bill shall be read a second time—as asserting, in my opinion, the necessity for Parliament to do something in the way of legislation, and to do it at once—I shall vote for the Second Reading of the Bill. It seems to me that it will be perfectly easy to remove from the Bill the ground for the objections which have been made by the Attorney-General, and it seems to me that you might introduce by this Bill—if not such ambitious attempts at reform as it contemplates—some remedy which will give satisfaction to the feelings existing in the country. As regards the Amendment, I have said already that to postpone dealing with the question, to make it dependent entirely on the action of the bishops, is to give the bishops a sort of letter of licence to delay the matter as long as ever they please. I do not think that that would be satisfactory. But certainly, as regards the Amendment, if the Bill should be defeated there is at least this satisfaction—that on the part of the Government there is a recognition that a great evil exists which demands the action of this House, that it is for this House to govern the Church in the last resort, and that it is the business of the clergy to obey the law as it is laid down by the Crown and Parliament. The House must make it perfectly clear that the Church does not mean the Priests. They say “the Church is to make the law.” Yes, but the Church is the laity, and the clergy are only the ministers. Therefore, unless we give that authority, unless we see that it is enforced, if we are going to leave this question in the situation in which it now stands it will be finally impossible to maintain the Church of England as a national Church or as an Establishment.

*THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The last five or six minutes of the right honourable Gentleman's speech were nominally devoted to the discussion of the Bill and of the Amendment, and to

an explanation of the reasons which induced him to take the somewhat singular course of voting both for the Bill and—if the chance is left him, as I do not doubt it will be—for the Amendment. Yet even now I do not understand why the right honourable Gentleman is going to vote for the Bill, because he did not say a single word in defence of any one of the provisions of the Bill. His only observations on the clauses of the measure were condemnatory, and as for the favour—the somewhat qualified favour—with which he appears to regard the Amendment, I attach very little importance to that, as it appears to me that he has read into the Amendment intentions which the Amendment does not convey, and has given meanings to its language which neither the rules of grammar nor any other rules would justify. Sir, if I had time I should like to criticise some of the historical observations with which the right honourable Gentleman began his speech. I will not do so because I have more practical and pressing matters to deal with. But the right honourable Gentleman never gives this House or the country his views upon the Reformation settlement without falling into historical errors so gross and extraordinary that it is really with the utmost difficulty that I restrain myself on the present occasion from endeavouring to deal with them. But this afternoon at all events, we must leave historical matters on one side, and come to the practical question. How has the right honourable Gentleman dealt with the practical question? He devoted three-fourths of his speech to an attack on the bishops for their conduct since December last. In December last he said that the bishops were in a position to remedy the evils which all acknowledged were present in the Church; and, because the bishops have not, between the end of December and May 10th, done all that the right honourable Gentleman thinks they ought to have done, he is, as I understand him, prepared to pass a vote of condemnation on the bishops and to thrust them aside from their legitimate share in the government of the Church.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I said “for many years past.”

*MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It was in December last that the right honourable Gentleman said he still looked to the bishops.

And because, since December last, they have not done all he thinks they might have done he has adopted the course I describe. In what is shown the laxity of the bishops? He says that they might have had a prosecution, and that they have had no prosecution. Is the activity of the bishops to be measured by the number of prosecutions they permit or encourage? Prosecutions may be necessary, but when necessary they are a necessary evil, and an evil the magnitude of which every bishop and every Churchman I believe (except the right honourable Gentleman) is prepared to acknowledge. I object to this measure of the activity of the bishops. The right honourable Gentleman's views as to the proper way of governing the Church shows him to be, I think, an indifferent adviser on matters ecclesiastical. Since December last the bishops have, without prosecutions, done an enormous amount by exhortation and advice to check the extreme practices to which objection is so justly taken. And in addition to that exhortation and advice, which has been most fruitful of good results, they have established these tribunals at which I understand the right honourable Gentleman sneers, but the effects of which it is as yet too early to judge, though of those effects I, at all events, entertain the highest hopes. But I suppose it would be a disappointment to the honourable Gentleman who interrupted me just now if the result of the action of the bishops, either by exhortation or through these informal tribunals, was to restore the Church to that position to which he would like to see it restored, if restored at all, only by the bitter scandals of a public prosecution. I fundamentally differ from him. I should regard such a consummation as the greatest evil that could happen to the Church, and I do most earnestly trust that the judicious action

of the bishops, the good sense of all the parties concerned, may render such prosecutions unnecessary in the future. I would, not in this respect, imitating the right honourable Gentleman, now ask the House for one moment to turn to the Bill. I do not dwell upon the indirect and unintended hardships which that measure must inflict upon what I may call accidental offenders belonging to all classes of ecclesiastical opinion. That matter was sufficiently dealt with by my honourable and learned friend, the Attorney-General, and I think he convinced every man in the House that these hardships would be an inevitable result of the measure, and are of a character which no mere alteration of phraseology in Committee could remedy or correct. This, however, is not the point on which I wish to dwell this afternoon. I want the House for a moment to face the real facts of the situation, and to ask themselves in all sincerity what is the evil they wish to cure, and whether this Bill is likely to cure it. We often hear it said that the evil with which this Bill is intended to deal is the breaking of the law of the Church; that it is intended, and solely intended, to prevent aberrations from the rules of ritual laid down by the Prayer-book, that its object is simply to secure that the Rubrics shall be obeyed. But this is a most incorrect and inadequate account of the object which we all really have at heart. There are a great many infractions of the Rubrics such as those mentioned by my honourable and learned friend the Attorney-General, which may be good or may be bad, but which are not the reasons why, at this moment, this House is crowded with anxious auditors and why the country outside is so deeply concerned with the problems with which we are dealing. It is something different from the mere bare legal question of

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the maintenance of the precise ritual required of the Rubrics, important as that may be which is agitating the country. Sir, what this House is concerned with at the present moment is the belief, which has a great justification in fact, that a certain number—I believe a very small number—of the clergy of the Church of England are determined, if they can, to pervert the ritual and discipline of the Church of England to something which differs from the ritual and discipline of the Church of Rome, faintly, if at all. That is the fear which moves us, and for that fear there is undoubtedly some justification in the practices and theories of a small body of the Church of England. Let us, therefore, openly state what it is we desire. We desire to prevent this Romanising process. But what does this Bill do to prevent it? I listened with great interest to my honourable friend who moved the Second Reading. He gave us examples of abuses which have crept into the Church, and I thought that this preface was going to lead up to some evidence that the Bill, if carried, would cure the evils of which he complained. But he did nothing of the kind. He mentioned in terms of reprobation—in terms of reprobation not, in my judgment, too strong—the case of a certain Mr. Cottam, who appears to have said, either in a sermon or in some book, that it was a sin to give money to a Dissenter or to go into his chapel. I think that is a preposterous doctrine; yet how would it be touched by this Bill? Of course, it would not be touched. Mr. Cottam might go on spreading this charitable view of the relations between different branches of the Christian Church as much if this Bill were law as he can at the present time. He went on to tell us that at a church near here a large number of children went as spec-

tators to a Communion Service. I do not know the facts of the case in detail, but, judging from what my honourable friend said, it is a proceeding to which I personally should have the very strongest objection. But how would it be cured by this Bill? It will not be touched by the Bill, and if any one wants to have a further illustration of how far the framers of the Bill are from adapting their remedy to the evil of which they complain, let him consider the clause of the Bill which forbids the use of the word "Mass." The use of the word "Mass," in my judgment, indicates a very deep-seated evil. So far as I am acquainted with Anglican literature, there has been in the 300 years succeeding the Reformation no Anglican divine of any importance, to whatever school he may have belonged, who would not have been shocked at the introduction of the word "Mass" as describing the English Communion Service. I believe it would have been as repulsive to Laud as to Tillotson, and that High Church, Low Church, and Broad Church would have concurred in condemning it. And if it is now so employed by any clergyman, that clergyman justly lays himself open to the suspicion that he is not really loyal to that branch of the Universal Church to which he nominally belongs. So far I am in absolute agreement with what I understand to be the views of my honourable friend and the framers of the Bill, but are they not by this clause, as by all the provisions of the Bill, attacking the mere surface indication of an evil without touching the evil itself? You forbid a man under the severest penalties to utter the word "Mass," but this Bill does not prevent him teaching the doctrine of Transubstantiation. This Bill does not prevent him, in covert language, teaching the doctrine of the Sacrifices of Masses—the

whole substance of the Roman teaching on the subject of the Eucharist might be, as far as this Bill is concerned, taught after it passes, as well as it can be taught now. My honourable friends' desire is to put an end to a real evil, but in their endeavour to put an end to the real evil they attack merely the symptom of the evil and leave the evil itself absolutely untouched. I do not think there can be a better indication of the hollowness of this attempt, and of the failure to which it is foredoomed. What we object to, after all, is not, solely or mainly, aberrations of ritual. I think, as I have often said in this House, that every member of the English Church, when he goes to an English Church, has a right to have a service in harmony with the spirit of the Prayer-book. But my honourable friends profess to be attacking something deeper than that, and yet they do not touch doctrine in their Bill. I do not say they are wrong, but that only shows that the machinery of the Bill is by its very nature directed to the surface of things, and does not penetrate to those inner realities which are the real source of all the evils of which we complain. If it be true, as I think it is obviously true, that this Bill is open to all the objections urged by my honourable and learned friend the Attorney-General, and to the general objections which I have just stated to the Committee, then this Bill does not do what its promoters desire it to do, and it is open in addition to the charge that it carries in its train inevitable evils, the magnitude of which it is really hardly possible to foresee. Supposing you carry this Bill, you might, at the cost of endless prosecutions, endless scandals, and endless difficulties, secure an external, minute legalism and uniformity of ritual. I presume, if this Bill were passed, every Low

Church clergyman would be obliged to minutely conform himself in some particulars in which he does not conform himself now to the directions of the Prayer-book. Every High Church clergyman would be obliged to do the same. All such things as Harvest Thanksgiving would be absolutely impossible, and the Church would be bound to a rigid uniformity, the value of which I do not, I confess, myself see. Would any spiritual unity be gained thereby? Would you thereby prevent the teaching to which you object? Would you thereby defeat the disloyalty of that small section of whose actions I have so often had to speak in terms of censure and condemnation? It appears to me you would leave them exactly where they were. They would be prevented, indeed, from a certain amount of symbolical ritual which expresses doctrines not, presumably, in conformity with those of the Church, but you would not touch their teaching. You would not touch their sermons and their management of voluntary schools. You would leave them in essence wholly untrammelled. You would put the Church into fetters that I think would be very little to its advantage. But you would do much more. You would endeavour to substitute for the government of the Church by the bishops, government of the Church by the Courts of Law. You cannot do that without destroying the Church. The Church is a living organism, and no living organism can be guided and directed by the mere interpretation of documents by a Court, however able those who constitute that Court may be. My noble friend who made a speech just now with his accustomed vigour, indicated to us that those with whom he agrees can never be content with this substitution of dead authority for living guidance. There are a great many who do not agree with my

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noble friend in the peculiar complexion of his theology who would entirely agree with his views on this point. It surely must appear to everybody as the height of absurdity to suppose that a court of law, supplied with work by common informers, is an appropriate means for governing any assembly of human beings, let alone a spiritual organisation. You cannot manage an office or a company or a nation in that way. You cannot manage any collection of human beings, organised for any purpose whatever; and least of all can we attempt to manage by the litigation and technicalities of a court of law a great spiritual organization which is nothing if it is not animated by spiritual objects and ideals. I admit that there must always be behind every binding system of rules a court of law. That is quite as true of Nonconformity as it is true of the Establishment. But neither Nonconformists nor the Establishment can depend for their daily government, for their management, and their spiritual sustenance on devices given them by the cold hand of a mere legal expert. This Amendment contemplates the possibility that further legislation may be necessary. I earnestly trust we need not go further. I have a firm conviction that the action of the bishops may render such legislation wholly unnecessary. But, of course, it is possible that legislation may be required. I trust that if it is required the difficult problems that will involve will be approached in a somewhat different temper from that which has animated many of those who have taken part in the recent controversy. The Church of England is too complex a body to be dealt with by the rough-and-ready methods which seem to commend themselves to persons of ardent zeal, but very often of defective historical knowledge, who have in some cases taken the lead in

this matter. But of this I am sure, that if time should show that the existing organization of the Church cannot secure that obedience which ought to exist in the body of every Communion, whatever its character, and if the remedy is such as to practically destroy the Episcopal character of the Church, then I think that will be the beginning of the end of the Church of England. I do not anticipate any such result. I believe that the present law is sufficient. I believe that in the hands of the present Episcopate it will be found sufficient, and I believe that, if it is not found to be sufficient, we could still be able to devise such reforms as might prove to be necessary without impairing that authority of the Episcopate which I regard as absolutely essential to the healthy working of the Episcopal Church. If I look forward with hope to the future—I make no pretence to be a prophet—I admit that there are difficulties and dangers which have still to be met and faced. It will rest with the rulers of the Church and the members of the Church to shew whether they can display sufficient tolerance of each other's differences, sufficient charity with regard to each other's views, sufficient sense of the great mission to which the Church is destined to enable them to find a remedy which shall not inflict upon the organization of the Church any fatal wound. I do not deny—I do not conceal for one moment my own belief—that if the English Church established or unestablished is to remain the Church of the great majority of the people, it must be that ancient institution as it was remodelled at the time of the Reformation. It is, indeed, the Church of St. Augustine and St. Anselm, but it is something more. It is the Church whose doctrine was purified and whose ritual was simplified in the 16th

century ; and it is only so long as it retains that character that it can hope to preserve the affections of the English people. But it is because I most firmly and conscientiously believe that this Bill is no sense helps us to attain that great result that I most gladly add my voice to

those who, I trust, by an overwhelming majority, will refuse to grant it a Second Reading.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 156 ; Noes, 310. (Division List No. 132.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Wm. (Newc. under Lyme)
Allison, Robert Andrew
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Ascroft, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. Blair (Clackm.)
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Blakiston-Houston, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Alexander H.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Clough, Walter Owen
Coddington, Sir William
Colville, John
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Crombie, John William
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cruddas, William Donaldson
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Denny, Colonel
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Evershed, Sidney
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazzell, Walter
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Holland, William H. (York, WR.)

Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Houston, R. P.
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jocey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kemp, George
Kinlock, Sir John George Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Sir Leonard
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
McKenna, Reginald
McLaren, Charles Benjamin
McLeod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Oldroyd, Mark
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsey
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Perks, Robert William
Phillips, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pilkington, Richard

Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Briggs (Yorks)
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Reckitt, Harold James
Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Rutherford, John
Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
Saunderson, Rt. Hon. Col. Edw. J.
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Stock, James Henry
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Viscent, Col. Sir C. H. Howard
Wallace, Robert (Perth)
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodall, William
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsfield)
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Charles M'Arthur and
Colonel Sandys

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Aird, John
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith (Hunts)

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

Harry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants.)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Benrose, Sir William Howe
 Beresford, Lord Charles
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowagree, Sir M. M.
 Biddulph, Michael
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blake, Edward
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
 Bond, Edward
 Bonser, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis
 Bracey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Burlett-Coutts, W.
 Burt, Thomas
 Butcher, John George
 Carew, James Lawrence
 Carile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r.
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
 Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Currie, Sir Donald
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Daly, James
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart

Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Folkestone, Viscount
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sidney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (Wendesbury)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bris.)
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstd.)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hogan, James Francis
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. (Grice-
 Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
 Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jewel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.

Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keawick, William
 Kinber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lecky, Rt. Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpl.)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lubbock, Rt. Hn. Sir John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macaleese, Daniel
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclean, James Mackenzie
 MacLure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.)
 M'Killop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir Herbert E.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monekton, Edward Philip
 Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Pender, Sir James
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick

Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l)
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thompson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Robson, William Snowden
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.

Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tollmach, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Osborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Verney, Hon. Richard Greville
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)

Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Words added.

Main Question, as amended, put, and
 agreed to.

Resolved—

“That this House, while not prepared to
 accept a measure which creates fresh offences
 and ignores the authority of the bishops in
 maintaining the discipline of the Church, is
 of opinion that, if the efforts now being made
 by the archbishops and bishops to secure the
 due obedience of the clergy are not speedily
 effectual, further legislation will be required
 to maintain the observance of the existing
 Laws of Church and Realm.”

FINE OR IMPRISONMENT (SCOTLAND
 AND IRELAND) (Re-committed) BILL.

Considered in Committee—

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1.

Committee report Progress; to sit
 again To-morrow.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Third Report from the Select Com-
 mittee brought up and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be
 printed. [No. 189.]

House adjourned at ten minutes
 before Six of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 11th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRADE, ETC.

Ordered, That the Standing Committee on Trade, etc., have leave to sit this day for the consideration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill during the Sitting of the House.—(Mr. John Edward Ellis.)

Private Bills.

Standing Order No. 62 complied with.

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—

CITY AND BRIXTON RAILWAY BILL.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

DUBLIN IMPROVEMENT (BULL
ALLEY AREA) BILL.

Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

AYR BURGH BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

KENSINGTON AND NOTTING HILL
ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

PERTH WATER, POLICE, AND
GAS BILL [Lords.]

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON,
CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY
COMPANIES BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

[New Title.]

GAS LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY
BILL (By Order).

THIRD READING.

Order for third reading read.

VOL. LXXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green): This Bill proposes to enable this company to raise two and a half millions of additional capital. I ask the House to postpone the Third Reading of the Bill upon considerations which the Committee itself was not competent to enquire into, and, as a matter of fact, did not enquire into. I have always thought that by far the best plan would be for this Bill to be referred to the Committee now sitting on the question of the metropolitan gas companies. You, Sir, decided on a previous occasion that it would not be competent for me to proceed with a motion to that effect, and, of course, I bow to your decision. The House is now asked to part with its control over this Bill at a time when a Committee is sitting which is enquiring into the management and the powers of all the gas companies in London. It is perfectly true that the terms of reference to the Committee included more than this particular company; the Committee no doubt is appointed to enquire into the rates charged and the methods of management of all the metropolitan gas companies. I contend that we ought not to let these large powers pass out of our hands to this company until the Committee of the House which is now sitting has reported. It is the immemorial practice of Parliament that when a company comes to this House and asks for new powers it is regarded as a proper time to enquire into the way in which the company has heretofore discharged the duties which the House has imposed upon it. Therefore I submit that the present is certainly an occasion when, before we part with this Bill, we ought to have the decision of the Committee before us. Last year this company had a Bill in Parliament the object of which was to settle up the capital, and an endeavour was then made to raise the question I desire to go into now. It was, however, then said by the counsel for the company that a question of that kind could not be entertained at that time. He said expressly that the time for these enquiries would come when this company applied to Parliament for new capital. The company has applied to Parliament for new capital and, therefore, the time has come, and what we say in regard to this com-

L

pany is, that the company has itself broken the statutory bargains by which it is bound. There are some who seem to think that standard prices are sacred things which Parliament should not, having once granted, touch for all time; but in the case of these gas companies, at all events, the standard prices are regulated by the standard dividend of 10 per cent., and those powers were allowed on the express understanding that the affairs of the company were properly conducted. In proof of that I may cite the opinion of one of the strongest Committees which has ever been appointed by this House. It was the Committee which was presided over by Mr. Cardwell, in 1866, and that Committee said the companies were only entitled to a 10 per cent. dividend after exercising due care in management. Our complaint is that the Gas Light and Coke Company have broken the terms of the statutory bargain, and that they have not conducted the affairs of the company with due care. The popular feeling against this company is considerably enhanced by a comparison between the prices which are charged by them and the prices which are charged by the South Metropolitan Gas Company. The South Metropolitan Gas Company charge only 2s. 2d. per 1,000 feet for gas, while the Gas Light and Coke Company charge 3s., and that contrast is heightened and reduced almost to an absurdity by the fact that, whereas the Gas Light and Coke Company are charging 3s. for its gas on the north side of the Thames, they charge only 2s. 2d. on the south side of the river. Why is that? The reason is that twenty years ago the Gas Light and Coke Company, after opposition, consented to an arrangement by which it was bound never to charge more than the South Metropolitan charge on the south side of the Thames for gas. The consequence is that consumers on the north side are paying more to the gas companies than the consumers on the south side pay to their gas companies. What I want to point out is that not only is there this difference in price between the two companies, but that the difference has been a gradually growing one for the last ten years. It is not necessary that I should give the difference for all the years, but in 1889 the difference was 3d., and from that time it has regularly grown. Anyone who has thoroughly studied the charges made by

these two companies can only come to the conclusion that the prices charged by the Gas Light and Coke Company ought to be less than those charged by the South Metropolitan Company. The reasons put forward by the Gas Light and Coke Company why they should charge more than the South Metropolitan Company seem to me to be very inadequate. What are some of those reasons? One of them is that the adjustments of their stations are more necessary to their works than is the case with the South Metropolitan Gas Company. I say that this Bill is not of immediate urgency, and that it regards rather the purposes which lie in the future than the purposes which lie in the immediate present, and one of these objects, for which a considerable portion of the capital is required, is to buy land not to be used for the purpose of making gas, but land just lying around their gasworks. I submit the estimates upon which this capital is based are excessive. The estimates are based upon an average—that is, their estimate of future expenditure—of twenty years. That is a very unusual and almost unprecedented proposal. What I propose to do is to move the adjournment of this Bill until the Committee now sitting has reported. It will not be the necessary result of my motion if it is accepted that the gas company should lose their Bill even in the present session, because if the report of the Committee now sitting should be favourable to the Gas Light and Coke Company there will be no kind of opposition to this Bill, and I presume that the opposition which has been raised to this measure in this House will not be renewed in another place. There is no reason in the world why this Bill should not go through, even during the present session. But I will assume that the consequence of passing this Amendment, which I now submit to the House, will be the loss of the Bill for the present session. The result would not be a very great loss to the promoters. I have had it suggested that their estimates are very incomplete, but even according to the case of the promoters they have still sufficient capital for the present year, they having a surplus of £60,000. This House is always very much guided by precedent, and I think the precedent of 1875 in regard to the gas companies is a strong one in favour of the action I am now asking the House to take. In 1875 several of the metropolitan gas companies had Bills be-

fore this House, which asked for an increase of their capital powers, but the House refused to proceed with those Bills, and the Committee known as Mr. Forster's Committee was appointed, and the Bills were postponed, and they did not pass into law during the year 1875, but in the following year they were passed, after the report of Mr. Forster's Committee had been received by the House. That is exactly the course which I ask the House to follow now. I would like to give the House another precedent. It may be remembered that in 1848 the Vauxhall Water Company promoted a Bill which fixed very high rates and charges, and the opportunity was seized to reduce the rates of a number of the south metropolitan water companies which had Bills before this House, and from that reduction the Vauxhall Company managed to escape. Under the circumstances I ask the House to keep control over this Bill until the decision of the Committee of Parliament has been made known to the House. Let the House remember that if we lose this opportunity it will not recur for ten years, and perhaps not for twenty years, and during that period the incriminated company will be entirely independent of the control of Parliament. I cannot understand the House appointing a Committee to enquire into the management and affairs of the company if before that Committee reports the House is willing to put the company into a position to enable it for ten years at least to snap its fingers at Parliament. That seems to me a most absurd position for the House to assume, and one which is distinctly not to the public interest. I beg to move that the Debate be adjourned.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, North) said he would second the motion of his honourable friend. If the House wished that the Committee which had been appointed should be a reality instead of a sham, it would wait for its Report before passing the Bill. The Committee was meeting primarily without a doubt to enquire into the conduct of the particular company concerned, and he might say that the evidence already given before that Committee went conclusively to prove that of all the metropolitan gas companies the

Gas Light and Coke Company was the worst managed and the company that charged most for its gas. That was therefore a sufficient reason why the hands of the Committee should not be tied as they would be tied if this Bill were passed. There was no urgency in the matter. If the company wanted money they had borrowing powers under which they could get it. If the Committee reported that the price of gas should be reduced, that recommendation could only be given effect to by the Government of the day, as a private Member's Bill for the purpose would not be of any use at all. The only other way would be by a Bill promoted by the company itself. Therefore, if the House was determined to put down the largest gas monopoly in the world, it should without a doubt consent to the motion of his honourable friend.

SIR W. CODDINGTON (Blackburn) said he was Chairman of the Committee on the Bill, and all the arguments of the honourable Member for Bethnal Green were fully gone into by the Committee, and the Committee passed the Bill. The Bill was merely to give the Gas Light and Coke Company power to raise increased capital, which was absolutely necessary for the conduct of its business, and the Committee reduced the amount asked for from three and a half millions to two and a half millions. The learned counsel who opposed the Bill did not produce a single witness against it, and the whole of the evidence was in favour of the Bill. The Committee were therefore of opinion that it was a fair and proper Bill to pass, but they reduced the capital to such an extent as they thought would compel the company to come before the House of Commons again in reasonable time. The money was to be raised at a very cheap rate of interest, which would enable the company to reduce the price of its gas. As Chairman of the Committee he could only say that he had never passed a Bill in which he concurred more heartily, and he should therefore vote against the motion.

SIR JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster) said, as Chairman of the Select Committee on the Metropolitan Gas Companies, he might say that the Committee had considered the question—

MR. SPEAKER: This is a Committee which has not reported, and the honourable Member would be out of order in referring to its views. I do not mean to say that the honourable Member may not be in order in some of the observations he proposes to make, but he will not be in order in referring to the deliberations of that Committee.

MR. J. SAMUEL (Stockton), as a member of the Committee which sat on the Bill, supported the Motion for Adjournment. In reply to the statement of the honourable Member for Blackburn, who was Chairman of the Committee, that there was no evidence before the Committee except evidence for the promoters, he thought it only fair to state that the Bill was opposed by the City Corporation and the County Council, but those bodies preferred to produce their evidence before the Select Committee which was appointed to inquire into the affairs of all the gas companies. Personally he voted against allowing the company to have such a large amount of capital, because he felt that as the House of Commons had appointed a Select Committee, it was only right that that Committee should deliberate and report before the Gas Light and Coke Company obtained powers to increase their capital. He thought that a great responsibility rested on the House in giving such a huge monopoly, which paid a maximum dividend—up to 12½ per cent.—increased powers. The only reason brought before the Committee to explain why the company charged such a high price for its gas was that they had to pay extra for coal. He found, however, that on an average they only paid a shilling a ton more than some other corporations who only charged 2s. per thousand cubic feet for gas. If the company maintained its present rate of expenditure, the increased capital it would get would enable it to go on for a period of fourteen years before coming to Parliament again. He thought a very strong case had been made out why the debate should be adjourned until the Select Committee had reported.

MR. DUNCOMBE (Cumberland, Egremont) said the honourable and learned Member for Bethnal Green had made a speech which showed that he had a perfect grasp of the subject, but he brought nothing new before the House. He

strongly advised the House against the Adjournment, on the ground that it was an inconvenient, expensive, and gradually-growing practice to adjourn decisions on private business put on the Paper by order of the House itself, and one which ought to be stopped.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he hoped the President of the Board of Trade would give some consideration to the motion. It was not hostile to the Bill, and it was really the very smallest Amendment that could be moved if the House were to retain any sense of the dignity of its own proceedings. The honourable Gentleman the Chairman of the Committee made the only defence they had heard, but what did it amount to? He said that no evidence had been brought forward against the point that this company required further capital. He would only ask, Why did the House of Commons appoint another committee to consider the affairs of this company really, although other companies were included, and about which some of the most flagrant facts had been brought forward? It charged 33 per cent. more for its gas than its rivals, and the only reason for that was that it managed its capital worse. It was now proposed to give that company more capital, and release it for fourteen years. What his honourable and learned friend asked was simply to wait until the Committee now sitting had pronounced judgment. If the Bill were now passed that Committee might as well shut its doors at once, for in that event what could the Committee do for the gas consumers? If the Bill were not passed, and if the Committee made recommendations, conditions might be added to the Bill which would be of great advantage to the gas consumers in the Metropolis.

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge) said, as one of the Members of the Committee now sitting, he did not wish to give a silent vote on the motion. He was not prejudging the merits of the case, but it seemed to him a perfect farce that a Committee should be discussing this question, and that their recommendation, when made, should be simply waste-paper. The debate ought certainly to be adjourned. He did not wish the Bill to be thrown out, but some report ought to be made by the Committee now sitting before such large powers were given to the Company.

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said he was in favour of the Bill passing, because if it were postponed it would be absolutely impossible for the Committee to report in time for the Bill to go through both Houses of Parliament. If the Bill were passed now, and if the Committee subsequently made representations, there would still be time to impose conditions in another place.

MR. MOON (St. Pancras, N.) said it appeared to him that the House would stultify itself by giving the Bill a third reading now. His constituents felt very strongly on the subject of the Bill, and if it were passed the Company need not come to Parliament again for ten or fourteen years.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth) said he thought it was worth while to consider what the Bill was for. It was to raise further capital which would enable the Company to supply the consumer with an article which it was bound by law to supply. If the Bill prejudged the decisions of the Committee now sitting, he could conceive grounds for argument against the third reading now, but the Bill did not contain any power enabling the company to increase the price of gas to the consumer. On the contrary, it gave power to reduce it. If the Bill were rejected it would give the opponents of the gas company, at whose instance the present Committee was appointed, an opportunity of saying that the company had not kept pace with the demands upon it. He hoped the House would not lend its assistance to political gerrymandering of that kind, for the purpose of putting an obstruction in the way of the company, which was certainly within the rights conferred upon it by Parliament itself. Suppose that the Committee reported that the company charged more for its gas than it ought, in what way would the postponement of the Bill assist Parliament? Parliament could not insist on inserting stipulations with reference to the charge for gas in the Bill. He thought it would be inflicting a great injury on the company to postpone the Bill.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he thoroughly agreed with the remarks of the honourable Member for, Uxbridge. He was not con-

cerned with the merits of the case at all. He had nothing to say for or against the company, but surely having appointed a Select Committee to consider the question of gas companies' charges, it would be stultifying the action of the House to pass the Bill now. The honourable Member for Peckham said the Committee could not report for some time, and that there would not be time for the Bill to pass after the Committee had reported. He understood the Committee were likely to report before the end of the session, and he did not think any Member would oppose the third reading after that report had been received, and there would be no difficulty in getting the Bill through Parliament, if after the report it was found to be a proper Bill. Even if the Bill were thrown out no harm would be done, because the company had money to go on with. It would not be right for the House to prejudice the report of the Committee they had appointed in regard to the matter. He was surprised that the honourable Member for East Islington, who had moved for the appointment of the Committee, had not opposed the Bill going through. Quite apart from the merits, but simply for the dignity of the House, he would oppose the third reading.

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) said he thought the House would be taking rather an unusual course if they postponed the consideration of the Bill. The Bill came before the House in the ordinary course; the promoters of the Bill had satisfied the Committee that they were entitled to receive all they asked for, and it was granted to them by the Committee. The only objection taken to the passing of the Bill on the present occasion was that possibly at some time or other—it was not even known whether during this session or next—another Committee might make some report the gist of which was not known at the present moment, which might or might not have some influence on this Bill. Surely that was too remote a contingency to take into consideration. Even if the Committee were to make a general report it would be applicable not only to one particular company but to other gas companies also, and therefore no advantage would be gained by penalising the Gas Light and Coke Company and leaving the others free. Under those

circumstances he suggested to the House that the adjournment should not take place. It was understood on the last occasion that a decision would be come to on the present occasion, and he hoped the House would not now postpone that decision.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said he took rather a different view of the matter from other honourable Members, especially in view of the fact that he moved for the appointment of the Committee now sitting. If he were to vote against the postponement of the Third Reading it might seem as if he were prejudging the matter, and it might also appear that he had arrived at the conclusion that the Gas Light and Coke Company had been found guilty of inefficient and improper management. Legislation need not necessarily follow the recommendations of the Committee now sitting, but it seemed to him that it might be a very good reason for curtailing the powers of capital sought by the Bill, and it might be possible, during the present session, before the Bill became law, to bring about such a reduction. So far as he was concerned, as a member of the Committee, he would take no part in the Division.

MR. AIRD (Paddington) expressed the hope that the House would see its way to pass the Third Reading. It would be a very serious thing if the Bill were thrown out. The money was required for necessary expenditure, and in justice both to the company and to the consumers it was necessary the Bill should pass.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said that there was a very strong feeling all over North London on the subject of gas charges. In view of the appointment of the Committee the matter was so important that one honourable Member said he could not even vote on it, another honourable Member said that it was not right that the House should decide now, and another honourable Member took a different view. With such diversity of opinion it would be more seemly to adjourn the Third Reading until they had the report of the Committee.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 121 ; Noes, 166.—(Division List No. 133.)

AYES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Wm. (Newc. under Lyme)
Allison, Robert Andrew
Ambrose, Robert
Arbuckle, Edward Mervyn
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Barlow, John Emmott
Bartley, George C. T.
Bhownagaree, Sir M. M.
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Daly, James
Davitt, Michael
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.

Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Evershed, Sydney
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert Jn.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hogan, James Francis
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Leng, Sir John
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Sir Leonard
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Ghee, Richard

M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Marks, Henry Hananel
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Kelly, James
Oldroyd, Mark
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestly, Briggs (Yorks.)
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. Jn. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Strachey, Edward

Mr. J. W. Lowther.

Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.

Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
 Woods, Samuel
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr.
 Pickersgill and Mr. Moon.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anstruther, H. T.
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Ascroft, Robert
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith- (Hunts)
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Benrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bill, Charles
 Blakiston-Houston, John
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
 Brodick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colville, John
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
 Crombie, John William
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (South'ton)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r.)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis

Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Gold, Charles
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greston, John
 Gunter, Colonel
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
 Hailett, Sir James Horner
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst'd)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knqwles, Lees
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'nsea)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent)
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Cumb'land)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 MacIure, Sir John William
 M'iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb'gh, W.)
 M'Killop, James
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Middlemore, Jhn. Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. John
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morrell, George Herbert

Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Newark, Viscount
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
 Percy, Earl
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pilkington, Richard
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretyman, Ernest George
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Pym, C. Guy
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chs. Thomson
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Usborne, Thomas
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Woodall, William
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marnaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir
 William Coddington and
 Mr. Banbury.

MR. LOUGH said he believed several Members had taken part in the Division without thoroughly understanding the question raised, and he was so much impressed by the gravity of the position

that he would take a Division against the Third Reading.

Original Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 185; Noes, 114. (Division List 134.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allsop, Hon. George
 Anstruther, H. T.
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arnold-Foster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Ascroft, Robert
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Baillie, Jas. E. B. (Inverness)
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, R. Hn. Gird. W. (Leeds)
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith- (Hnts)
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Benrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Biddulph, Michael
 Bill, Charles
 Blakiston-Houston, John
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Burt, Thomas
 Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Gls'g'w)
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Wrcr.)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colville, John
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
 Crombie, John William
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Doughty, George
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (South'ton)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Mncr.)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson

Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Gold, Charles
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hamstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
 Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lea, Sir Thomas, Londonderry
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swmse.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (Kent)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edin'gh, W.)
 McKillop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Mellor, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Middlesmore, Jhn Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. Jhn.
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Paey
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George

Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
 Pease, Herbt. Pike (Darlington)
 Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
 Philippotts, Captain Arthur
 Pilkington, Richard
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Round, James
 Rutherford, John
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalyb.)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tritten, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestrsh. N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Woodall, William
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arey
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.
 Sir William Coddington and
 Mr. Banbury.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Allen, Wm. (Newc. under Lyme)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Ambrose, Robert
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)

Barlow, John Emmott
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Billson, Alfred
 Blake, Edward
 Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Broadhurst, Henry

Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Cawley, Frederick

Clough, Walter Owen
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Daly, James
 Davitt, Michael
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. Dixon
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.

Lambert, George
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McGhee, Richard
 McKenna, Reginald
 McLeod, John
 Marks, Henry Hananel
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Kelly, James
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)

Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Strachey, Edward
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Hy. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsfd)
 Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES,
 Mr. Lough and Mr. Pirie.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (GAS).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashburton, Wallingford, and Wokingham, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES).

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Brighton, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bristol, Cheltenham, Ealing, Gillingham and Rhigos (Rural), Leicester (three), Newmarket, Scarborough, Tonbridge (Rural), Wallasey and West Ham, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashton-in-Makerfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Llandudno, Rother-

ham, Southport (two) and York, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Aberavon, Barry, Brixworth (Rural), Hambledon (Rural), Manchester, Pontypridd, Rickmansworth and Swadlincote, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (GAS) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashburton, Wallingford and Wokingham," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 186.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES) BILL.

"To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Brighton," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 187.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bristol, Cheltenham, Ealing, Gelligaer Rhigos (Rural), Leicester (three), Newmarket, Scarborough, Tonbridge (Rural), Wallasey and West Ham," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 188.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashton-in-Makerfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Llandudno, Rotherham, Southport (two) and York," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 189.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Aberavon, Barry, Brixworth (Rural), Hambledon (Rural), Manchester, Pontypridd, Rickmansworth and Swadlincote." Presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 190.]

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP J).

SIR HENRY FLETCHER reported from the Committee on Group J of Private Bills, That the parties promoting the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill (Ystradfydwg (Maerdy) Order) had stated that the evidence of David William Smith, Stationmaster at Maerdy, was essential to their case; and it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move, That the said David William Smith do attend the said Committee upon Monday next, at Twelve of the clock.

Ordered, That David William Smith (Stationmaster at Maerdy) do attend the Committee on Group J. of Private Bills upon Monday next, at Twelve of the clock.

PETITIONS.

ADULTERATION (FOOD PRODUCTS) BILL.

Petition of the Council of the British Medical Association, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872.

Petitions for alteration of Law;—From Southall;—and, Norwood; to lie upon the Table.

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH GERMANY.

Petition of Charles Whitmore Stokes, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petition from Skelton, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Two Petitions from Dumfries, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour;—From Vauxhall;—Methilhill;—New Broughton;—No. 2, Arley Hulton;—Sheepbridge, No. 1;—and, Clay Cross, No. 1, Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

Petition from Stirling, against establishment; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from London, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TEMPERANCE REFORM (THREEFOLD OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Stranraer, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Dundee, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (GENERAL REPORTS).

Copy presented,—of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Southern Division of Scotland for the year 1898 (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

TRADE (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS).

Copy presented,—of Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions for 1898 (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

COMPANIES (APPLICATIONS FOR RETURNS).

Return presented,—relative thereto (ordered 22nd March; *Mr. Faithfull Begg*); to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.

Copy presented,—of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Uxbridge and Rickmansworth Railway Bill and the objects thereof (pursuant to Standing Order 158A); referred to the Committee on the Bill.

EAST INDIA (ESTIMATE).

Copy presented,—of Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of India for 1898-9, compared with the results of 1897-8 (by Act); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 191.]

EAST INDIA (FINANCE AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS).

Copy presented,—of Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for 1897-8 (by Act); to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (HOME ACCOUNTS).

Copy presented,—of Home Accounts of the Government of India (by Act); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 192.]

NAVY (HYDROGRAPHER'S REPORT).

Copy presented,—of Report on Admiralty Surveys for the year 1898 (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.

Copy presented,—of Statement of the estimated Income and Expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1899-1900 (by Act); to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 193.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2257 and 2258 (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

MARGARINE ACT, 1887 (MANUFACTORIES).

Address for "Return of the Names and Postal Addresses of the Manufactories of Margarine in the United Kingdom registered under Section 9 of the Margarine Act, 1887 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 358, of Session 1892)."—(*Mr. Arthur Moore.*)

TELEPHONE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT.

Copy ordered, "of Treasury Minute, dated the 8th day of May, 1899, upon the Proposals for the Development of the Telephone System in the United Kingdom."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 190.]

RESTRICTIONS UPON BRITISH INDIAN SUBJECTS IN BRITISH COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

Address for "Return (1) showing in the case of every British Colony and Dependency, the population of which includes British Indians, what Disabilities or Restrictions are imposed upon such British Indians; (2) stating for each Colony or Dependency the approximate number of such British Indians; and (3) giving in each case from the statutes or the bye-laws an abstract showing the nature of the Disabilities or Restrictions in question."—(*Sir William Wedderburn.*)

QUESTIONS.

MILITARY TRIBUNALS AND CIVIL CONVICTIONS.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (*Lynn Regis*): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, what is the practice of

the military authorities with reference to cases in which a military officer has been convicted of an offence by a civil tribunal; do the military authorities in such a case ever inflict upon an officer who has been thus convicted a second penalty, amounting to a suspension of an officer from military duties during a limited period and allowing him to return to his duties at the expiration of that period; and, is it the practice of the military authorities, when an officer has been convicted of an offence before a civil tribunal, to inflict a further punishment upon him, either by suspending him from his military duties, by calling upon him to resign his commission, or by dismissing him from the Service, without giving the officer himself any intimation that his case is under the consideration of the authorities and without affording him any opportunity of giving any explanation that he may have to offer.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. GEORGE WYNDHAM, Dover):** In the last eight years there have been but five cases of civil conviction against officers in the Regular Army. These officers have been either removed from the Army or called upon to resign, in accordance with the nature of the offence. The rarity of such cases makes it difficult to speak of a practice, but going beyond the period of eight years, two cases are remembered in which officers were removed from the Army immediately after the decision of a Court of Law.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Has the War Office no practice?

[No reply.]

ENTERIC FEVER AT KING WILLIAMS TOWN.

MR. ASCROFT (Oldham): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he has received any information in respect to the deaths from enteric fever of a number of soldiers belonging to the Berkshire Regiment now stationed in King Williams Town; and, whether the necessary steps are being taken to put the South African barracks in a proper sanitary condition.

***MR. WYNDHAM:** The battalion is stationed partly at King Williams Town
Mr. Gibson Bowles.

and partly at Grahams Town. At the former place there have been eighteen cases of enteric fever but no deaths; at the latter seven cases and six deaths. Some days have elapsed since the last admission to hospital. The cause of the King Williams Town outbreak has not as yet been ascertained. At Grahams Town enteric fever is prevalent among the civil population, owing, probably, to the want of rain; but four of the cases are attributed to the condition of a soakage pit which has since been cleaned and thoroughly purified. £22,400 has been taken in this year's Estimates to improve the accommodation of the troops in South Africa.

SHORNCLIFFE CAMP.

***SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe):** I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether he is aware that the rateable value of Shorncliffe Camp and grounds is now considerably higher than is represented by the amount contributed by the Treasury towards the rates; and, whether he is disposed to consider the desirability of making that property assessable to the rates, or of fixing such a contribution as would be in accordance with the system of late years adopted in London of contributing to local rates, so as to relieve struggling urban districts like Hythe, Sandgate, and Cheriton from burdens necessitated by fresh expenditure on repairs to and construction of roads, lighting, &c. I beg also to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether he is aware that the rateable value of Shorncliffe Camp and grounds is now considerably higher than is represented by the amount contributed by the War Office towards the rates; and, whether he is disposed to consider the desirability of making that property assessable to the rates or of fixing such a contribution as would be in accordance with the system of late years adopted in London in contributing to local rates.

***A JUNIOR LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. ANSTRUTHER, St. Andrews Burghs, for Mr. HANBURY):** There is no ground for the statement in the first paragraph. The Camp was entirely re-valued in September, 1894, when the assessment was fixed by the Treasury Valuer and the Assessment Committee of the Union in conference at gross £8,090, rateable,

£6,492. The Assessment Committee then passed the following resolution :

"That the Committee accept the above figures as a fair assessment of the Government Property to the Local Rate."

So recently as the 30th December last all the new buildings, &c., erected between September 1894 and that date, were added to the valuation on which the Government rate contributions are paid. There are other new buildings in course of erection but not completed, which will also, when completed, be added to the valuation. The system or principle on which the rates contributions are given for Shorncliffe Camp is precisely the same as that on which the contributions for the Government property in London are given.

MILITIA TRAINING.

MR. BILL (Staffs, Leek): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether, under the new militia regulations, it is proposed to make the regiments selected for possible service abroad liable annually for extra training beyond the usual twenty-seven days; and, if so, what amount of extra training will be given?

*MR. WYNDHAM: Power will be taken to give the special service men in such regiments seven days' additional training annually for musketry.

"MONTGOMERY MORE" WATER-TIGHT COMPARTMENTS.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he is aware that there is a system for controlling valves automatically on water-tight doors in vessels, known as the Montgomery More system; whether, in view of the late lamentable loss of life by the wreck of the "Stella," it is the intention of the Admiralty to make further inquiry as to the advisability of such a system being adopted and made compulsory; and, if such a system has already been adopted by a French firm.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. G. J. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover-square): To the first question of the honourable and gallant Gentleman my answer is "Yes," and I should add that the Admiralty have had many such proposals before them—that is

to say, for closing water-tight doors by a single operation from a fixed station. The Admiralty have, of course, only considered such proposals from the point of view of war vessels, for which they have not adopted them. As to whether it would be expedient to adopt the system in the Merchant Service, where the conditions are different, and to make its adoption compulsory, would be a question for the Board of Trade, not for the Admiralty. The Admiralty have no information as to the adoption of the Montgomery More system by French firms.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: Does the First Lord consider that the examination made into this question is sufficient without further inquiry?

MR. GOSCHEN: Yes, the Admiralty understand the system perfectly. They have thoroughly investigated it.

TELEPHONE OFFICE AT INNISHOWEN COASTGUARD STATION.

MR. T. B. CURRAN (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, whether he is aware that a public telephone office is placed in the coastguard's station, Inneshowen Head, county Donegal, and is in the charge of the wife of one of the coastguards; and whether this is contrary to the rules of the coastguard service; and, whether any of the coastguards in this station are remunerated by a local steamboat company for reporting vessels coming into Lough Foyle to the agents of the said company; and, if so, whether this is contrary to the regulations of the service.

MR. ANSTRUTHER (for Mr. HANBURY): A public telephone office is situated at Innishowen coastguard station and is in charge of the wife of one of the coastguardsmen. This was sanctioned by the Admiralty and Postmaster-General. None of the coastguard receive any remuneration from the local steamboat company for reporting vessels coming into Lough Foyle.

CRUISE OF THE CHANNEL SQUADRON.

SIR LEONARD LYELL (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether Lerwick, in Shetland, will be included among the ports of call to be visited by the Channel Squadron

during its summer cruise ; and, whether he is aware of the strong desire in Lerwick that the Channel Fleet should resume its visits to that port, the most important centre for the Naval Reserves in the North.

MR. GOSCHEN : It is not probable that the Channel Squadron will visit the Shetland Islands during the summer. It is not possible to gratify the wish of all the ports to whom the visit of the Channel Squadron would be welcome. As I have frequently explained, the cruise of the Squadron cannot be determined by any but naval considerations.

SIR LEONARD LYELL : Could not the right honourable Gentleman arrange for occasional visits to Lerwick ?

MR. GOSCHEN : It must depend entirely on naval considerations.

THE ADMIRALTY AND THE THAMES IRON WORKS.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty what Admiralty contracts have been secured in the last twelve months by the Thames Iron Works ; and, whether, in deciding on the acceptance or rejection of the tenders in question, the rate of wages prevailing on the Thames, or any other consideration, was taken into account, or whether each accepted tender of the Thames Iron Works was the lowest tender put in for the particular work in question.

MR. GOSCHEN : The Thames Iron Works Company have received contracts for two battleships, a sloop, and a store ship in the course of the last twelve months. My reply to the enquiry of the honourable Member as to whether, in connection with the placing of these contracts, the rate of wages prevailing on the Thames, or any other consideration, was taken into account, is in the negative. The tenders were simply accepted because they were the most advantageous for the public service.

CLERK OF THE BOMBAY INSOLVENCY COURT.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN, (Banffshire) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Clerk of the Insolvency Court at Bombay is paid

Sir Leonard Lyell.

by fees, which amount to between 3,000 and 4,000 rupees a month, and whether the present incumbent accepted the appointment subject to the understanding that the scale of his remuneration was likely to be revised ; why the recommendation of the Finance Committee of 1886 that, looking to the amount of the work, the salary should be fixed at Rs.500 or Rs.600 per mensem, the fees to be credited to Government, was not acted upon ; and, whether he will lay upon the Table the correspondence regarding the salary of this appointment between the Bombay Government, the Government of India, and the Secretary of State subsequently to the year 1895 ?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing) : (1) The Clerk of the Insolvency Court at Bombay is paid by fees, the average amount of which is a little over Rs.3,000 a month, out of which he meets certain charges for establishment. It is apparently the case that the present incumbent accepted the appointment (in 1875)

"subject to any revision of the remuneration that might be ordered by competent authority."

(2) The recommendation of the Finance Committee for the salary to be fixed at Rs.500 or Rs.600 a month, was coupled with a further recommendation that the duties of the post should be revised and made more important, and a higher salary attached to it, by an Insolvency Bill which was then under consideration. This measure has been under consideration for many years, but it has recently been decided not to proceed further with it ; and I now propose to communicate with the Government of India on the subject. (3) The correspondence on this subject, though very lengthy, is still incomplete, and I cannot undertake to present it.

PRIMOGENITURE IN THE PUNJAB.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether many important petitions have been presented to the Punjab authorities from loyal sirdars of the Cis-Sutlej territory of the Punjab, praying for relief from uncertainty and for recognition by Government of the rule of primogeniture in the succession to their respective estates ; whether there has been any delay or want of uniformity on the part of local officials in reporting on and

dealing with such petitions; and, whether he has any objection to grant a Return of the dates, names of subscribers, and prayers of such petitions, and of the official correspondence and rulings of the Government of India and Punjaub authorities on the subject.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: In reply to the question of my honourable friend, I have to say that there is no information at my disposal which would supply an answer to the first two paragraphs. As regards the Return asked for in the last paragraph, it could not be furnished without a reference to the Government of India, as the correspondence is not on record in this country. My honourable friend's question will be forwarded to the Government of India for any observations they may have to make.

INDIAN SUGAR DUTIES.

***MR. MARKS** (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can now state to the House the purport and the result of the communications that have passed between Her Majesty's Government and the Austro-Hungarian Government with reference to the imposition of countervailing duties upon bounty-fed sugar imported into India.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS** (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The correspondence between the two Governments on the subject is not yet concluded, and it would therefore be premature yet to state its result.

INDIAN CRIMINAL ADMINISTRATION.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the following recent cases: The case of *Empress v. Maharaj* and another, in which the defendants were convicted of theft, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment and fine by Mr. Marr, Joint Magistrate of Begu Sacrai; the case of *Dr. Kuniram Ghose*, who was convicted by the Magistrate of Murshidabad for an alleged act of negligence in his professional capacity, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment and fine;

the case of *Mr. Augier*, Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Pwrlulia, who was sentenced to imprisonment for six months in a case relating to a female coolie; whether he is aware that in each of these cases the High Court of Calcutta set aside the conviction, declaring that no offence had been proved; and, whether, in view of these facts, he will consider the desirability of introducing a change in the present system of criminal administration in India, by which the district magistrate is the head of the police, the virtual prosecutor, and at the same time the chief magistrate in his district.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have no information in regard to the three cases referred to in the honourable Member's question. I do not think that the orders of the High Court, so far as their terms are stated in the question, would justify me in requesting the Government of India to consider the advisability of introducing a revolutionary change in the present system of criminal administration in India.

BOARD OF TRADE AND MARINE CERTIFICATES.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, if he is aware that in 1887 the Secretary of the Mercantile Marine Service Association was informed by Mr. Thomas Gray, then Secretary to the Board of Trade, that the Board had recently made a new departure with regard to the course to be adopted in dealing with certificates on conviction for an offence; and that they had, in cases where the offence was of a professional nature, determined to invite the holder of the certificate to offer any explanation of his conduct before exercising their power of cancellation or suspension; whether this new departure has been adhered to during the twelve years since it was first announced; and, whether he is prepared to consider the advisability of extending to cases in which the offence was otherwise than of a professional character the new departure of hearing the officer before inflicting the second additional punishment of suspending or cancelling his certificate.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): Yes, Sir, I have seen the

letter to which my honourable friend refers. The case then under consideration was one in which the master of a vessel was convicted of an offence of a professional nature, viz., that of negligently running foul of a lightship; and the rule was then laid down, and has been adhered to since, that, in analagous cases, the Board would ask for an explanation before exercising their power of cancelling or suspending the certificate of the offender. Cases of a more or less criminal nature are on a different footing, and I am not prepared to adopt a similar course with regard to them, though I shall (as far as I can) have regard to the nature of the offence for which an officer has been convicted before deciding whether to cancel his certificate, or to suspend it for a longer or shorter period.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Can the right honourable Gentleman say in how many cases since 1882 an officer has been heard in his own defence?

MR. RITCHIE: I cannot now, but if the honourable Gentleman will put the question down, I will get him the information.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Not in any case.

BOARD OF TRADE CLERKS.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that four of the clerks serving in the Official Receivers (Bankruptcy) Department of the Board of Trade have been granted Civil Service Certificates; and, if so, whether, taking into consideration the fact that some of their colleagues have been serving in that Department for 15 years, he will recommend to the Treasury, in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Order in Council of 29th November, 1898, that certificates should be granted to those who have not less than six years' established service.

MR. RITCHIE: The position of the clerks employed by the Official Receivers in Bankruptcy attached to the High Court was enquired into by a Departmental Committee of the Treasury and Board of Trade in 1896, with the result that certain clerks were placed on the permanent establishment. I am not

Mr. C. T. Ritchie.

prepared to recommend a similar alteration in the status of the clerks generally. The question is not affected by paragraph 15 of the Order in Council of 29th November, 1898, which relates to permanent Civil Servants only.

SCOTTISH EDUCATION GRANTS.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, having regard to the statement that Scotland would receive a sum of £80,000 per annum, under the Education (Scotland) Act, 1897, whilst the amount borne on the Imperial Estimates for the current year in respect thereof consists only of an additional sum of £24,000 for necessitous school boards, of £12,600 for voluntary schools, and of £5,000 to keep up the capitation fee grant to 12s. per child, making in all a total of only £41,600, or £38,400 per annum less than that calculated, the Government will re-consider the amount of grant payable to Scotland under the said Act.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The honourable Member is labouring under a misconception. If, as I assume, he refers to the statement made by me on the second reading of the Education (Scotland) Bill, 1897, he will find that the sum of £80,000 was not referred to as to be paid only under the Act of 1897, but included the £13,000 odd which was payable under the operation of Section 67 of the Act of 1872; which £13,000 odd the honourable Member has deducted, and thereby converted the sum actually borne on the Estimates of this year for necessitous Board Schools, viz., £37,500 into £24,000. But I should wish to add that such details are unsuitable for discussion by means of question and answer, and it would be more convenient to leave them to be dealt with more fully when the Education Estimates come before the House.

APPEAL COURT BUSINESS.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan, Mid): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General what arrangements have been or will be made for the hearing of appeals in the Court of Appeal during the absence out of the country of the Lord Chief Justice of England, and of Lord Justice Collins, as Commissioners of Her Majesty; whether it is the intention of

the Government, or of the Lord Chancellor, to put in force Section 4 of The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1875, during the absence of the learned Judges referred to, so as to secure the attendance in the Court of Appeal of an additional Judge of the High Court of Justice; and, whether the Government will introduce a Bill to make the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary *ex officio* Judges of the Court of Appeal, and to enable the Lord Chancellor to request the attendance as Judges in the Court of Appeal of Peers who have held the office of Lord of Appeal in Ordinary or any other high judicial office in England if they consent to do so?

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): It is proposed that the President of the Probate and Admiralty Division, who is a member of the Court of Appeal, shall sit in that Court during the absence of Lord Justice Collins. The answers to the second and third paragraphs of the honourable and learned Member's question are in the negative.

SIR H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): Who will sit in the Probate and Divorce Court, then?

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER: I assume that, if necessary, one of the Queen's Bench Judges will. The right honourable Gentleman will probably remember that one of the Queen's Bench Judges has been constantly assisting in the Admiralty Court when, owing to temporary illness, Sir F. Jeune and Mr. Justice Barnes were absent.

MARINE INSURANCE BILL.

MR. WARR (Liverpool, Toxteth, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce the Marine Insurance Bill during the present session.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I do not anticipate that this Bill will be dealt with in the House during the course of the present session. Matters will have to be gone into very fully, and laboriously dealt with by the Committee in charge of it.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

MR. STRACHEY (Somerset, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government intend to take next Wednesday, upon which day the Rating of Machinery Bill is the first Order.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No; I do not propose to take next Wednesday for Government business.

NORTH SEA FISHERIES CONFERENCE.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he is prepared to give any information as to the proposed International Conference of the North Sea Powers; whether he can include in his statement information as to the date and place of meeting, the nature and scope of the inquiry, the representation of the various nations interested; and, whether the British representative has yet been selected; and, if so, what instructions have been given to him.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Conference is to meet at Stockholm on June 15. The programme proposed as the basis of proceedings is too long to summarise within the limits of a reply to a question, but it deals principally with the subject of scientific inquiry to be undertaken with a view to formulate suggestions to improve the international legislation in connection with the sea fisheries. The British representatives are Sir John Murray, Mr. Archer, Chief Inspector of Fisheries, and Professor D'Arcy Thompson.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Will there be any other method of making the instructions more public than this answer?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps the honourable Member had better put a question down.

SCOTTISH EDUCATION MINUTE.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in consideration of the terms of paragraph 7 of the Scotch Education Minute of 27th April 1899, upon which no action will be taken before 27th May, he will give an opportunity for the discussion of that Minute before the Whitsuntide Recess.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This Minute will no doubt become law unless it is discussed within a certain number of days, and I believe the Scotch Members have desired an opportunity to discuss it. I suggested a discussion on the Scotch Estimates last Friday week, but it was found to be inconvenient to the Gentlemen interested in the question. I had therefore to defer its consideration to a later date, but I cannot give a day for the discussion.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I wish to ask whether, having regard to all the circumstances connected with this Minute, the honourable Gentleman will not undertake on the part of the Government that no action shall be taken on it until the House has an opportunity, which will naturally arise on the Scotch Estimates, of considering it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I could not answer that question without consulting the Secretary for Scotland, but I may point out that this Minute can be superseded at any time by another Minute, if the House indicated that this course was desirable.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar): In consequence of the right honourable Gentleman's reply I will ask leave to move the Adjournment of the House at the close of questions.

ASCENSION DAY.

MR. J. E. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): Respecting the disparity of practice between the two Houses on the point, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury why it is necessary to make a motion that Committees of the House of Commons shall not meet till 2 o'clock on Ascension Day if the Committees of the House of Lords sit as usual.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should like to inquire into the facts before answering; out if the House of Lords itself does not sit on Ascension Day it seems to me unlikely that its Committees would sit.

MR. J. E. ELLIS: The House of Lords Committees have been sitting as usual.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I know nothing about the House of Lords Committees.

MR. J. E. ELLIS: But they sat to-day.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): Yes, at 11 a.m.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I will inquire.

MR. P. O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Is the House of Lords aware that this is Ascension Day at all?

SCHOLARSHIPS IN TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

SIR JAMES RANKIN (Hereford): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the Science and Art Department regard scholarships held at any school or college, and paid for by the technical instruction committee of any county council, as constituting aid to that school or college; and, if they do not so regard them, whether such scholarships can be held at schools or colleges carried on for private profit.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The question asked by the honourable Member is a legal one, which would have to be determined in the first instance by the Local Government Board auditor. The Science and Art Department has never regarded scholarships as constituting aid to the schools at which they are held; but their view does not bind the Local Government Board auditor.

ESSENDON NATIONAL SCHOOL.

SIR BARRINGTON SIMEON (Southampton): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether his attention has been called to the report of Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools respecting the state of education of the children attending the National School in Essendon, Hertfordshire; whether he is aware that two of the three trustees of the school are non-resident, and never attend the school meetings, while the third trustee is the Rector of Essendon, and that the elected managers very inadequately represent the subscribers to the school funds, and have refused to appoint a master, notwithstanding the warning given by the Inspector that the Government Grant will be withheld unless there should be an

improvement in the work and discipline of the school; and whether, under these circumstances, the Committee of Council on Education will recommend the appointment of additional resident trustees, with whom the management rests under the trust deeds establishing the school.

SIR J. GORST: The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. I have been informed that two of the trustees are usually absent from the meetings, but there are four managers who have equal control with the trustees. Her Majesty's Inspector reported that the school narrowly escaped being called inefficient. A new head mistress, trained, and first-class in the certificate examination, has lately been appointed. The Education Department has no authority to interfere in the appointment of trustees.

STATISTICS AS TO INDOOR PAUPERS.

SIR JAMES RANKIN: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board what is the total accommodation for indoor paupers in the workhouses in the various unions of England and Wales, and what is the total number of indoor paupers at the present time.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. H. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): From inquiries which I have caused to be made quite recently the total number of paupers (except vagrants) for whom there was accommodation in the workhouses, workhouse infirmaries, and separate schools, other than district schools, may probably be estimated at between 230,000 and 240,000. The number of occupants on 1st February last was nearly 198,000, but the number of course varies considerably from time to time.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD ACCOUNTS.

***MR. EVELYN CECIL (Herts, Hertford):** I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the London School Board keeps its accounts in an aggregate form which makes it impossible for a ratepayer to object to any specific item which he believes to be illegal or which the auditor can disallow; whether the Local Government Board will take steps to ensure that the accounts shall be kept in such a form

that objection can be taken to illegal items, as provided in the Education Act of 1870, Section 60, Sub-sections (5) and (6); and whether, during the present audit, any instructions can be given to the auditor by which the School Board may be required to remedy the difficulty which it has caused.

MR. CHAPLIN: I am informed that the accounts of the London School Board are kept in the prescribed form, and as a general rule in such a way as to enable ratepayers to object to any specific items which they may believe to be illegal. Possibly my honourable friend's question has special reference to the expenditure on account of science and art schools and classes, to which objection has been raised. I understand that part of the expenditure on these schools and classes has not been incurred exclusively for that purpose, and consequently that it has not been separately shown in the accounts. But I am informed that some items of expenditure have been incurred exclusively for such purpose, and that at the inquiry now going on before the auditor no great difficulty has been found in specifying certain items of this kind, on which the objections of the ratepayers can be, and are being, based. It does not appear to be necessary that any instructions should be given to the auditor in this matter with regard to the accounts now under audit.

VACCINATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether, in view of his statement that non-delivery of a certificate of exemption under Section 2 of The Vaccination Act, 1898, to the vaccination officer within seven days after it has been granted renders the certificate null and void, he can now state to whom such certificate should be delivered during any period in which, through death, resignation, or non-appointment, there is no vaccination officer for the union; and, whether, as in case of the death or removal of the vaccination officer, or of errors in or the destruction of his registers, there may be a difficulty in proving the registration of certificates in subsequent proceedings, he can arrange for the issue of a certificate of the delivery and registration which may be available as evidence of the granting of a certificate of exemption and its delivery and registration within the prescribed period.

MR. CHAPLIN: In the event of a vacancy in the office of vaccination officer which cannot be filled up forthwith, the Guardians are required to appoint a person to act temporarily, and it would seem that the certificates of conscientious objection should be delivered to the person so appointed. I am not aware that any difficulty of the kind referred to in the second paragraph has arisen, and it does not appear to me to be necessary to make any arrangements, at all events, at present, with regard to it.

DONAGHADEE HARBOUR.

MR. BLAKISTON-HOUSTON (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the dangerous state of Donaghadee Harbour; whether he can state what was the difference between the soundings taken in the harbour in 1863 and the last soundings taken recently there by the Board of Works; and whether, considering that this harbour is the principal harbour of refuge for trading vessels at the entrance of Belfast Harbour, where there is so much traffic, something will be done to render the harbour a place of safety for trading vessels and the Scotch fishing boats frequenting the harbour.

MR. ANSTRUTHER (for Mr. HANBURY): From information received in October last, it appears that the harbour is not dangerous for the boats frequenting it. The average difference between the recent soundings and those taken in 1863 is, in the body of the harbour, about 2½ feet, but the depth at the entrance between the piers is practically unchanged. I may, perhaps, remind the honourable Member that the purpose of the deepening effected in 1862 was to accommodate steamers proposed to be employed in postal communication with Portpatrick. That necessity does not now exist. The real harbour of refuge for the district in question is Belfast Lough. Donaghadee Harbour was not constructed to serve that purpose.

POST OFFICE TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury when the Return as to Post Office Telephone Exchanges (in continuation of No. 231, of Session 1897) will be laid upon the Table.

MR. ANSTRUTHER (for Mr. HANBURY): Arrangements are being made for the presentation of this Return, which is already completed.

STORE STREET (LONDON) POST OFFICE.

MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorks, W. R., Holmfirth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that the tablet on the letter-box at the Store Street Post Office intimates a collection at 9 a.m., whereas there is no such collection; whether there are other discrepancies between the intimations and the facts; and whether, in view of the great inconvenience which arises from such misdirection, he will cause inquiries to be made as to the letter-boxes generally to ascertain whether the tablets correctly indicate the times of collection.

MR. ANSTRUTHER (for Mr. HANBURY): The collection from the Store Street Post Office, to which the honourable Member refers, was recently altered from 9 a.m., to 8.45 a.m. The change was duly shown in the window notice, and, pending the supply of a new time plate, the hour in the old plate was altered by means of a paper slip, which appears to have become detached. A new time-plate will be supplied as soon as possible.

CORK TELEGRAPH STAFF.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, in reference to his statement of July 1898, that the question of increasing the established staff of telegraphists at Cork is under consideration, whether that revision is yet completed; and, if so, when it may be expected to be brought into force; and whether, considering the long delay in formulating the scheme, the Postmaster-General can see his way to make it retrospective.

MR. ANSTRUTHER (for Mr. HANBURY): The proposals for a revision of the indoor force at Cork, Postal and Telegraph, are now awaiting Treasury sanction, on receipt of which they will at once be carried into effect. There are no special circumstances in the case which would justify the Postmaster-General in recommending that the scheme should be made retrospective.

AMERICAN MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. KIMBER: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Continental mails by the German ship "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse," leaving Southampton on Wednesday 26th April, arrived in New York on Tuesday 2nd May, while the English mails by the White Star steamship "Britannic," leaving Liverpool on Wednesday 26th April, arrived in New York on Friday 5th May; also that a portion of the English mails forwarded by the "Aurania," a casual Cunarder, leaving Liverpool on Tuesday 25th April, arrived in New York on Thursday 4th May, two days later than if they had been sent from Southampton on 26th April; and, seeing that the "Britannic" is an obsolete ship taking nine days instead of six for the Atlantic voyage, will he explain why she is still used by the English Post Office for the conveyance of mails to America.

Mr. ANSTRUTHER (for Mr. HANBURY): The official returns have, of course, not yet been received from New York; but according to the telegraphic reports published by the newspapers, the arrivals of the three steamers took place as follows:—

"Kaiser Wilhelm," 3 p.m. 2nd May.

"Aurania," Midnight 3rd May.

"Britannic," 1.30 p.m. 5th May.

Both the British steamers sailed from Queenstown, the "Aurania" having on board letters posted practically the same day as those carried by the "Kaiser Wilhelm," and the "Britannic" letters posted a day later, as she did not leave Queenstown till the 27th April. The employment of the slower boats of the Cunard and White Star Lines together with the faster has been frequently explained to the House. The mail contract gives the companies the right to the conveyance of all of the correspondence not specially superscribed, and requires them to use their fastest boats all the year round and to put in at Queenstown for mails. The "Britannic" is one of the four fastest boats of the White Star Company; and the Postmaster-General has no power to exclude her until the Company have a better boat to take her place. Letter-writers can always secure the transmission of their letters by any

steamer they prefer by specially superscribing them.

DONAGHADEE HARBOUR.

Mr. M'GHEE (Louth, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, with reference to the present state of Donaghadee Harbour, whether he has yet made inquiry as to the rate per day chargeable by the Belfast Harbour Commissioners for the use of their bucket dredger, which removes about 12,000 tons of dredging per week from Belfast Harbour, and has to carry the same about seven miles to sea; whether he is aware that this work is done at a cost of about £100 a week; whether any offer, and, if so, how much, has been made to the Commissioners by the Board of Works for the use of this dredger at Donaghadee; whether, considering the failure of the dredger sent from Kingstown by the Board of Works, he will advise that some effort be made to secure the services of such a dredger as is capable of doing the work required; and, whether he will state if any and what offer was made to the Belfast and County Down Railway Company on condition of their taking over charge of this harbour.

Mr. ANSTRUTHER (for Mr. HANBURY): Inquiries made in October last showed that the only dredger possessed by the Belfast Harbour Commissioners which was available for hire was entirely unsuited to the economical removal of the material at Donaghadee. The answer to the second and third paragraphs is in the negative. It is not proposed to take any further steps at present with regard to dredging, since, from information received in October last, it appears that the harbour is sufficiently safe for the boats frequenting it. Under existing circumstances the deepening of the harbour would not increase its safety, or its trade, or the length of berthage used to any appreciable extent. In 1896 the Belfast and County Down Railway Company, who have a branch line to Donaghadee, were offered a sum of £1,000 to cover expenses of dredging, on condition that they should take over the harbour under legislation enabling them to levy tolls. The company, after consideration, declined the offer.

RED SEA LIGHTS.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for

Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government have received information that the Porte has arranged with the Administration des Phares to build and administer four lighthouses off the Arabian coast in the Red Sea; whether the lights in question will be at or near the points at which the want of lights has been for many years recognised by Her Majesty's Government; whether the funds hypothecated by arrangement with the Government of Egypt from the light dues levied by them for the provision of such lights will be applied to the provision and maintenance of the lights designed by the Sublime Porte; and, whether the surplus of Egyptian light dues above mentioned has been accumulated during the long-continued negotiations on this subject, and may be applied to the erection of lights in the Gulf of Aden.

*MR. BRODRICK: Her Majesty's Government have been informed that the Porte has arranged with the Administration des Phares for the construction of four lights in the Red Sea: at Mocha, Zebair, Abu All, and Jebel Tir. These lights will be kept up by the Turkish Government, and no new taxes will be levied on shipping on account of them. In these circumstances the ultimate destination of the funds which had been accumulated by the Egyptian Government for this purpose will be a matter for future consideration.

SAMMUN BAY.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British Minister in charge at Pekin is still pressing the claims of Italy to lease Sammun Bay and the adjoining territory; and, whether it is proposed to take any further action in support of the claim.

*MR. BRODRICK: No action has been taken in the matter by Her Majesty's representative at Pekin since the statement which I made on the 20th March in reply to a question on the subject by the honourable Member. Her Majesty's Government will await the formation of the new Italian Ministry and the communication of their wishes on the subject before considering the question of what further steps, if any, can be taken by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

Sir James Fergusson.

PIRACY NEAR SAMSHIRI.

MR. ASCROFT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give any information as to the number of British gunboats now stationed near Samshiri; and, whether the statement of Acting-Consul Fox, which was received at the Foreign Office on 10th April, that cases of piracy in the neighbourhood of Samshiri were unpleasantly frequent during the last months of 1898, that attacks had been made on two steamers flying the British flag, that the provincial authorities were either unable or unwilling to put a stop to such a state of affairs, that the outrages were perpetrated in broad daylight often within sight of the guard stations, and that in hardly one instance had the offenders been captured, had received the attention of Her Majesty's Government; and, if so, whether any representation has been made to the Chinese Government; and, whether he can give any information as to the results of same.

MR. BRODRICK: Her Majesty's Government have had under consideration the increase of piracy in Chinese waters in the neighbourhood of Hong Kong and in the West River, and strong representations have been made to the Chinese Government on the subject. The correspondence has been forwarded by the Admiralty to the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station. The gunboat "Sand-piper" is at present stationed in the West River.

TELEGRAPHIC NEEDS OF SAMSHIRI.

MR. ASCROFT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that, although Samshiri has now been an open port for over a year, and that the telegraph wires pass through Hokow, no telegraph station has been established at the port of Samshiri; whether he is aware that great inconvenience is suffered by British subjects in consequence of the nearest station at Sainan not having an English-speaking operator; and, whether he will consider the advisability of taking the necessary steps to remove the grievance of British traders stationed in that part of China.

*MR. BRODRICK: The absence of any telegraph station at Samshiri and the resulting inconvenience are referred to in

the report of the British Acting Consul for 1898, which has been presented to the House. There would no doubt be great advantage for commercial business that there should be a telegraph station nearer than three miles, but I fear that until other more important matters connected with our trade in China have been dealt with, we cannot make this a subject of diplomatic representation.

BRITISH PROPERTY AT HANKOW.

MR. ASCROFT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any representations have been made to him in respect to the refusal of the Russian Consul at Hankow to recognise the title of British subjects to property owned by them within the Russian concession; and whether any communication has passed between Her Majesty's Government and the Russian Government in respect to same; and, if so, whether he can give the result of such communications.

*MR. BRODRICK: Representations have been made to the Russian Government on the subject, and they have sent instructions to their representatives in China to suspend all definite action in the matter pending further orders.

SIERRA LEONE.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies when he proposes to lay upon the Table the Report of Sir D. Chalmers on the recent troubles in Sierra Leone.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I have just received Sir F. Cardew's observations and am now considering the whole question. I expect to present the Report at an early date after the Whitsuntide Recess.

BISHOP TUGWELL.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Bishop Tugwell has been committed for trial at Lagos on the charge of criminal libel, the libel consisting in a statement that probably 75 per cent. of the Europeans on the West Coast of Africa die from the effects of drink; and

whether the Colonial Office proposes to take any steps towards the assistance of this prelate in his unfortunate position.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information on the subject except from the Press telegrams. If a prosecution has been instituted by a private person or persons I have no power to interfere.

MR. LE MESURIER.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received the report of the Governor of Ceylon on Mr. C. J. R. Le Mesurier's indictment of the Governor and of other officials in Ceylon; whether these complaints were sent to the Colonial Secretary in January, through the Governor himself; and whether it is imperative on the Governor, under the Government Regulations, to report on such a complaint at the time of forwarding it to the Secretary of State; and whether the Inspector-General of Police in Ceylon has protested against the use of police to eject the occupants of lands claimed by the Crown; and whether the Law Officers of the Crown in Ceylon have advised against the action of the Governor in using force to occupy such lands, and advised him to proceed under the Common Law; and has the Government at last taken proceedings under the Common Law of the island to assert the right of the Crown to use of these lands; and why the same procedure could not have been taken with all the other lands in dispute.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The petition in question, dated December 31, was forwarded with a despatch dated April 3, which reached me April 24. The Acting Governor, who wrote the despatch, explained the delay as follows:—

"It has not been possible to deal with this memorial as speedily as I should have desired, owing to the number of references which were necessitated to the several officers who were charged by Mr. Le Mesurier with grave dereliction of duty. They, in fact, include all those officers of Government whose duties necessitated their coming in contact officially with Mr. Le Mesurier, and his complaints range over a period of some 3½ years."

The Governor, who is in England, states that as far as he is aware the Inspector-General of Police did not, and was most unlikely, to make any such protest as the question implies. The Attorney-General of Ceylon, under whose advice all pro.

ceedings under the ordinance have been taken, has not advised as suggested in the honourable Member's question, nor has he advised the Governor to proceed under the ordinary law, except in one or two cases where Mr. Le Mesurier is concerned. In these cases Mr. Le Mesurier, by technical objections, thwarted the proceedings under the Waste Lands Ordinance, and consequently the Attorney-General saw no reason why he should continue to have the benefit of the cheap procedure provided by the ordinance, especially as he would not have the same opportunities for obstruction under the more rigid ordinary law. To adopt the same procedure in all cases would be unfair to other claimants, who prefer the inexpensive and expeditious procedure under the Waste Lands Ordinance. That ordinance is generally very popular, and many large proprietors are anxious to have settlements effected under it because, besides being cheap and expeditious, it provides for the amicable settlement of claims, and Government has from the first directed that all *bona fide* claims are to be treated in a generous spirit. Consequently, nearly all claims other than Mr. Le Mesurier's have been amicably disposed of under the ordinance without the intervention of the ordinary courts, which are open to every claimant.

FEVER EPIDEMIC IN THE GLENTIES UNION.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he has received copies of resolutions passed at meetings of the Guardians of Glenties Union, held on 4th and 31st March, and of the Rural District Council held on 15th April, calling attention to the fact that the Guardians are liable for a sum of nearly £500 in connection with proceedings taken against them in actions in the Superior Courts at the suit of Ward and M'Cabe, whose houses at Kendew, in the Glenties Union, were burned in the interests of the public health by the sanitary authority, at the instance of the sanitary officer of the district, as an indispensable necessity for staying the progress of a fever epidemic, that the amounts which should be applied to other purposes are now swamped by these charges, that the treasurer has refused to give any overdraft, and requesting the Local Government Board to advance the

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amount for which the Union, in the discharge of an absolute duty, has been thus rendered liable; will he explain why the Local Government Board declined to accede to the request of the Guardians for permission to advance sums of £20 each to Ward and M'Cabe as compensation for the burning of their houses, which they were willing to accept in complete discharge of all causes of action; and, what steps will be taken by the Government with a view to the relief of the Union from liability for the sum incurred by legal proceedings into which it was unavoidably launched by the refusal of the Local Government Board to permit the Guardians to accept the proposal made before the institution of the actions for the reasonable settlement of these claims.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): Copies of the resolutions referred to in the first paragraph have been received. As regards the second and third paragraphs, when the Guardians asked the Local Government Board to sanction a payment in money to the occupiers of the houses in question to compensate them for the destruction of the houses, the Board informed the Guardians that they had no power to sanction such a payment from the rates. Recognising, however, the difficult position in which the Guardians found themselves, the Board instructed their Inspector to attend before the Guardians and suggest that they should take steps under the Labourers' Acts to erect dwellings for these people, for which special purpose there were funds at the disposal of the Guardians; but they declined to act on the Board's recommendation. Had the Guardians adopted this recommendation, the legal costs of which they now complain would probably not have been incurred. There are no funds at the disposal of the Board, or of Government, from which the advance asked for by the Guardians could be made.

RAILWAY VALUATION AT MILL-STREET, CO. CORK.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): On behalf of the honourable Member for Mid-Cork, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Commissioner of Valuation has, after a period of 52 years, re-

duced the valuation of the Great Southern and Western Railway by the amount of £1,084 5s. in the Millstreet Rural District, county Cork; and whether, having regard to the hardship imposed upon the district council by the reduction in question, the Commissioner will be directed to reconsider his decision.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: A re-valuation of the Great Southern and Western Railway system was made this year at the request of the Tralee Board of Guardians. The effect of this re-valuation has been to increase the rateable value of the railway on certain sections of the line, and to reduce it on others—the net result being a considerable increase. On the section running through Millstreet Rural District there was a decrease amounting to £1,081 5s. It is open to any ratepayer in the district to appeal against the decision of the Commissioner of Valuation, and if such an appeal be lodged, and if it be proved to his satisfaction that the present valuation of the railway is unfair, he will be prepared to reconsider the matter.

CORK LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: On behalf of the honourable Member for North Cork, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that at the recent elections in Ireland held under the Local Government Act, 1898, petty sessions clerks were engaged as deputy returning and presiding officers in nearly every county in Ireland except the county of Cork; if he can state, in view of the fact that they have frequently discharged the duties of presiding officers at the Parliamentary elections in Cork county, why they were not eligible to serve at these local government elections; and, whether the Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks gave permission to them to act; if so, why were they debarred from acting on this occasion.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The facts, I am informed, are stated with substantial accuracy in the question. Deputy returning and presiding officers are appointed by the returning officers, and I assume that the Returning Officer for Cork, in not employing a Petty Sessions Clerk to act in the capacity mentioned at the recent elections, was guided by the terms of a

circular issued to these officers in 1884, which prohibited them from taking any part in Parliamentary, Municipal, or Poor Law Elections, except to record their votes. It is apparent that the terms of this circular have not been complied with. There are obvious objections to the employment of Petty Sessions Clerks in the capacity stated, at all events in the districts for which they are appointed as clerks, and the whole subject is now under the consideration of Government.

IRISH FINANCIAL RELATIONS.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will arrange that the Third Reading of the Finance Bill should be taken, so as to afford an opportunity for a discussion on the question of the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not aware that any new facts have come before the House since last year to justify the House again going over the ground referred to. I do not make any pledge on the part of the Government to find time for a discussion of the subject.

DOCK ACCIDENTS.

MR. BROADHURST: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been directed to the report of Dr. Tatham as to the serious number of accidents at docks and wharves causing deaths, and being far in excess of normal industrial accidents, being in fact more than double that of other occupations; what steps have been taken to inspect gear and working machinery on wharves and docks for the purpose of preventing accidents; and, whether a Return can be made, and laid upon the Table, of visits paid to wharves and docks, with name and time of visit, and place inspected.

***THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancs, Blackpool):** I have seen Dr. Tatham's figures, which are important and interesting, and show that dock labour is one of the most dangerous occupations. They relate, however, to the years 1890 to 1892. Since then the Factory and Workshops Act of 1895 has been passed, and under its powers the Factory Inspectors (who

have been increased in numbers) now inspect the gear and working machinery in docks and wharves in the same way as if these places were factories. I cannot give separate statistics of visits to docks and wharves, but the visits are very numerous.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Is there any increase of the staff at Liverpool?

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I cannot answer any question as to details.

MAINTENANCE OF CHILDREN IN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is his intention to introduce a Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Reformatory and Industrial Schools, 1895-6, with regard to the payment of contributions by parents.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: In a Bill which I have prepared dealing with various matters relating to youthful offenders, I have inserted provisions which would give effect to the bulk of the recommendations referred to. I may add that I hope that this Bill will shortly be introduced in another place.

TRAIN WRECKERS.

MR. ASCROFT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can give the number of cases during the last ten years where prisoners convicted of robbery with violence and garrotting have been flogged; whether he can give the number of convictions obtained during the same period of prisoners charged with attempts to wreck railway trains; and, whether he can give any information as to the increase of the latter offence during recent years.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The numbers of cases in which prisoners have been sentenced to be flogged in each of the ten years 1888 to 1897, are 26, 24, 9, 17, 18, 46, 65, 30, 29, and 31. During the same years the numbers of persons convicted on indictment under Sections 32, 33, and 34 of the Offences against the Person Act, 1861, are 18, 4, 11, 4, 6, 3, 11, 10, 14, and 0. The figures for 1898 are not

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available; but those which I have given show that while there are great variations from year to year in the number of convictions, it cannot be said that there is an increase in recent years.

JOSEPH WILSON, OF FAILSWORTH.

MR. ASCROFT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Joseph Wilson, aged 18, of Failsworth, who, on the 23rd of February, 1898, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour, and committed to the Strangeways Prison, Manchester, and, on his complaining that he was ill and unable to work, was reported to the Governor, and, on the medical officer stating he was shamming, was confined for three days in the punishment cell, with a diet of bread and water; and on the 24th March was removed to the prison hospital suffering from enteric fever, contracted within the prison, from which he subsequently died: Whether at the inquest any evidence was given as to the punishment he had suffered for complaining of illness; and whether the relatives had the opportunity of being present at same: and whether any compensation can be made to the father, who was, to a great extent, dependent on his son's earnings.

*THE HOME SECRETARY (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY): My attention was drawn to this case last year, when I received a report from the Prison Commissioners and a transcript of the evidence taken at the inquest. It is not the case that the prisoner complained that he was ill and unable to work, that the medical officer stated that he was shamming, or that he was confined for three days in the punishment cell. The prisoner was in good health on admission to the prison on the 23rd of February, but on account of his age was put to light labour only, namely, picking cotton. He was reported for idleness on the 15th March, and was passed as fit for the punishment imposed, *i.e.* one day's confinement in his own cell, with bread and water. Nine days afterwards, on the 24th of March, the prisoner, who looked ill, was admitted to the hospital, and on the 27th of March the symptoms of enteric fever showed themselves. These facts were given in evidence at the inquest at which the prisoner's relatives were present. It is

by no means proved that the disease was contracted in the prison: evidence was given that the drains and water were all in perfect order, and no other case occurred. The medical inspector came to the conclusion that the disease was not contracted in prison, but that it had been incubating from a date very shortly prior to the sentence. The circumstances would not justify the grant of any compensation as suggested in the last paragraph.

POST OFFICE MAIL BAGS.

MR. HALSEY (Herts, Watford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Postmaster General of the Cape Colony has raised objections to the making up of mail bags for the United Kingdom on board Her Majesty's ships on that station, thereby depriving the officers and men of the privilege of the Imperial penny postage; and if so, whether he will take measures to secure to the officers and men of Her Majesty's ships on that station the privileges they now enjoy in every other part of the British Empire.

MR. ANSTRUTHER (for Mr. HANBURY): The Postmaster General understands that the naval authorities at Simons Town arranged with the Postmaster General of the Cape Colony to delay the establishment of the mails from the ships pending the settlement of a question of accounts. As that question is now settled, the Postmaster General sees no reason why the mails should not be established at once.

SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar) rose in his place, and asked leave to move the Adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the new scheme for Secondary Education in Scotland as set forth in the Minute of 27th April, which provides for the distribution of £35,000, and will become operative on the 27th day of this month"; but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than 40 Members having accordingly risen,

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said that he was reluctant to trespass on the time of the House. If the First Lord of the Treasury would be good enough to undertake to arrange that the Minute should not come into operation until they had had an opportunity of discussing it, he would be very glad to sit down at once, so far as he was concerned; but if the First Lord of the Treasury could not see his way to do that, then he must say he would feel obliged in the circumstances of the case to bring the matter before the House. The reason that influenced him was that this was a new Minute dealing with a sum which was applied for the purpose of secondary education in Scotland, and the method adopted by the Minute removed practically from Parliament all direct control of this secondary education. It superseded the existing authority, and it made the Scottish Education Department supreme over the existing authorities to an extent and degree which it had never held before. He did not think the House, perhaps, realised the confusion into which Scottish secondary education had been brought by nine years' government by Minutes and circulars from the Scottish Education Department—

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Will the honourable Gentleman allow me to interrupt him? He has made a direct appeal to me. I do not know anything about this, but I have been inquiring from my hon. friend near me, and he informs me that nothing can be done under the Minute for some little period. The distribution is not until 31st October, and no steps of a character which will commit the House, or anybody, can be taken for some little time. I will bring on the Scottish Estimates at as convenient a time as possible. I have already tried to bring them on, but owing to the objections of my hon. friend opposite they were postponed. I believe, however, that the Scottish Estimates will come on at a period before any steps of a serious character are taken.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Perhaps I may be allowed to point out that even the opportunity of the Scottish Estimates will not be a very good opportunity for the discussion of the Minute, and for this

reason—on the education vote for Scotland there is ample material for a long discussion, because there is an entirely new Code this year, and a very great deal of matter that requires to be discussed. This Minute is a definite matter by itself, and if the right hon. Gentleman can give this facility to the Scottish Members, I am sure it would be in the interests of Scottish education.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said that he could only express his regret that the right hon. Gentleman was not able to see his way to give them this concession. His purpose in intervening to-day was to claim the right that this question should be discussed by Parliament. If the right hon. Gentleman would be good enough to give them a definite undertaking, he would be still very glad to withdraw, but as that was not the right hon. Gentleman's intention he must proceed. He begged to remind the House that the first grant was given as long ago as 1890. The number of authorities which administered that grant was something like 238 in Scotland. The second grant was given two years later, and for the purpose of the administration of that grant, 39 new and separate authorities were created. There had been two such grants since then. Altogether the sum of money, with this £35,000, available was about £175,000, not taking into consideration the £200,000 which they had for endowments, and at the other end of the scale the part which was claimed for secondary education by the higher standards of the elementary public schools. The objection to the Minute was that it added to the confusion that already existed in secondary education in Scotland. In the first place, it added to the number of authorities who had a right to distribute these grants. There were certain authorities which had laid upon them the duty of distributing the residue grant under the Act of 1890. There was another set of authorities which had the right to distribute the grant under the Act of 1892, which went by the name of the Equivalent Grant. The Scottish Education Department had the duty of distributing £2,000, they said, for agricultural education, and also the money which came to them from the Science and Art Department, and which was now administered by the Scottish Education Department. This new Minute, which set forth the new method in which the grant was to be

administered, adopted an entirely new procedure. That very fact in itself seemed to him to condemn the method which had at present been established. They had, therefore, an additional element added to the confusion. The first paragraph of the minute proposed to devote £2,000 for the purpose of defraying the cost of inspection, and the cost of the leaving certificates. In Scotland £2,000 already went to this purpose from a separate source. He wanted to ask the Lord Advocate if he would inform them what different method was to be adopted in reference to this additional £2,000? Was it intended that this £2,000 should be really additionally applied for this purpose, or was it to relieve the Equivalent Grant, from which at present £2,000 was taken for this purpose, and were they to have a new separate set of inspectors? The next paragraph proposed to allot £2,000 for agricultural education. In the first place they had a sum given to this purpose from the Science and Art Department, under the Scottish Education Department. Now they had this new grant of £2,000 also to be re-administered by the Scottish Education Department under conditions which they did not yet know. Besides the total sum of £4,000 they had the County Councils in all parts spending money in agricultural instruction of various sorts entirely separately, and, it might be, out of touch with the central institutions by whom at present the £2,000 now devoted was applied. There was an increasing demand in Scotland for this form of instruction, and it did seem to him that when they had the total money devoted to this purpose, coming from a multiplication of sources, there was little likelihood of building up from the beginning a satisfactory form of instruction in Scotland, and there were large gaps in the present system. The present £4,000 went to four central institutions, and, on the other hand, the grants from the County Councils went generally to itinerant lecturers and courses in the county districts. There were large gaps in the East of Scotland. There was a wide district for which no provision was made. There were Perthshire, Forfarshire, and Fifeshire, all without institutions in this direction which they ought to have. He did not ask what institutions the money was to be allotted to, but he asked why more money was not allotted for this purpose, and how the money that was

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allotted was going to be spent. As to the next part of the Minute, would the State-aided schools, with higher departments, be eligible for moneys under this grant? When the Secondary Education Committee undertook the work of endeavouring to organise secondary and technical education in counties, they had the two years' balance moneys in hand. It had always been expected that their work would be strengthened and supplemented in some degree by the action of Parliament. Without that help it was more than likely that in some counties grants that had hitherto been made to certain institutions would have to be reduced in time to come. He wanted to point out another defect in the present system, namely, the entire want of continuity—which characterised the present method of distributing the grant—

*MR. SPEAKER: If I had known the line of argument the hon. Member was going to adopt I should have hesitated in saying that this was such a definite matter that it could be presented to the House on a motion for adjournment. The hon. Member seems to me to be raising the whole subject of Scottish education. That is not a definite matter on which a motion for adjournment could be founded. I thought there was one definite point in the scheme to which the hon. Member objected. But to discuss the whole subject of Scottish education generally on a motion for adjournment would be quite out of order.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said he was perfectly ready to bow to that ruling, and he assumed the House was in possession of all the facts in connection with this matter. He would therefore only endeavour to point out that this Minute added to the confusion already existing, and was a Minute to which some of them took the strongest objection. His main objection was that the Minute adopted a new method of aiding secondary education in Scotland. It was a scheme which was entirely new in its method and in its application. The main objection they took to this Minute was the objection taken last year to any further dealing with this subject by Minutes or Circulars issued by the Scottish Education Department. This method of dealing with the subject had brought secondary education in Scotland into a state of chaos, and

both sides of the House had admitted it. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, in his Paisley speech, had admitted it, and they were all agreed that the multiplication of authorities was disastrous, and managers and teachers might well be discouraged by the complexity and confusion into which the system had been brought. The only difference between them was as to the method of dealing with this intricate subject. The Scottish Secretary proposed to deal with it by Minute—

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (MR. GRAHAM MURRAY, Bute-shire): Mr. Speaker, I understand you to rule that the hon. Member must confine his remarks to a definite matter—namely, the effect which this Minute would have at once if it was not not discussed in the House to-day. The hon. Member is raising the whole question of Scottish secondary education, and it will be impossible to confine my remarks in reply to anything less than a justification of the whole policy of the Government. I ask whether your ruling does not really shut out the line of argument which the hon. Member is taking.

*MR. SPEAKER: What was in my mind in putting this to the House was the fact that a Minute was coming into force on the 27th May which I understood made some material alteration in the administration of Scottish education, and that there would be no other opportunity of discussing it before that date. It is to the mischiefs that would occur in consequence of the Minute coming into force on a certain date that I would ask the hon. Member to address himself. When the Lord Advocate rose, the hon. Member appeared to me to be addressing himself to the general question as to whether an alteration in the administration of Scottish education ought not to be done by legislation, instead of by Minute. That clearly would be out of order upon a motion for adjournment.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said his point was that he wished that the mischief would last only a few weeks, but he was afraid that it would last for a longer period. The method of administering the secondary education funds that had been adopted by the Scottish Secretary would, he believed, be prejudicial to secondary education, and would increase the existing confusion rather than relieve it, and put the matter

on a sound footing. Scottish secondary education was in need of the time and attention of Parliament, and it would never be in a satisfactory position so long as it was controlled and administered solely by Minutes issued by the Education Department. The effect of such a method was to kill and stifle the public interest which ought to be taken in the question of education in Scotland, and which would be taken if another method was adopted. Any one who examined the state of secondary education in Scotland—

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now clearly entering into a matter which on an Education Bill would be pertinent, but which is not within the leave given to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR bowed to Mr. Speaker's ruling. He would only again repeat his strong protest against the method which had been taken by a responsible Department in dealing with this subject. There had been no time for any expression of public opinion in Scotland with reference to this minute, and he did not think that such a method as this was likely to truly advance the interests which he was sure the Lord Advocate had at heart.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House do now adjourn." —
(*Captain Sinclair.*)

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) seconded the motion. He said they had no desire to impede the business of the House, but they considered that it was a matter of urgent importance to stop the operation of this Minute. They felt that if this Minute came actually into operation it would add another item to the already great confusion which existed in the administration of Scotch education. His hon. friend had already pointed out that there already existed a large number of authorities which did administer the money. It was perfectly competent to the Education Department to have handed the money over to be administered by the County Committees, but they had not done so, presumably because they found that the administration of the money by these County Committees had not been wholly satisfactory. By bringing forward this Minute the Education Department had

Captain Sinclair.

admitted to the full that the present system was not working sufficiently well. They were proceeding in the wrong direction, and the Minute was entirely wrong in principle. Such administration as this only doubled and trebled the already existing confusion in Scottish secondary education, and if this Minute was acted upon, it would make it more difficult to unravel the present tangle.

*MR. GRAHAM MURRAY admitted that this was an important question, and also that the Minute was a departure from that of the Minute of 1893. It rather went back to the Minute of 1892, and was to a great extent a reaffirmation of certain principles which it would have been well if the then Secretary for Scotland had not departed from. It was, however, impossible to discuss this matter in a manner that would satisfy his hon. friend, as the hon. Member himself had said, without raising a debate upon the entire subject of Scottish education. In accordance with the ruling from the Chair, what he had to do with was the present mischief of the minute. The hon. Members had been unable to show that there were any present mischiefs at all. As to the fact of the minute being promulgated, that was the fault of the Act of Parliament, because it provided that there must be a Minute issued providing for the distribution of this money. The scheme, such as it was, provided that grants were to be made by the Education Department in favour of certain secondary or technical schools, that before making any such grants they were to be satisfied of certain things, and that the method of distribution should be as follows:—Every such school shall forward before 1st October, 1899, for the consideration of the Department through the County Committee, a return containing certain things and their proposals as to assistance. Therefore no practical action could take place on this Minute until procedure began with the forwarding of new schemes on the 1st of October. The hon. Member was perfectly well aware that the Minute had no force of law in the sense of a statute. It could be at any moment superseded by another Minute. Technically speaking, the Duke of Devonshire and the Secretary for Scotland might put a Minute on the Table of the House every day of the week, and each Minute might supersede the other. Consequently it was abundantly clear, as the Scottish

Estimates must come on before 1st October, hon. Members opposite would have full opportunity to discuss the whole policy when they would not be hampered by any ruling such as was given to-day. If, after discussion, hon. Gentlemen did persuade the Government, then another Minute could be published, and no harm would be done. The Government could do what Sir George Trevelyan did in the last Parliament, when he upset his own Minute at the instance of one of his own supporters. But he did not think the present Scottish Secretary was likely to follow a similar course. He therefore appealed to hon. Members opposite not to persist in their motion, but to put off the discussion till a more convenient opportunity.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) agreed as to the difficulty of discussing the question without going beyond the limits of the ruling laid down. At the same time the Lord Advocate had not presented the whole case. What his hon. friend said was that this method of distributing was inconsistent with the method laid down by another Minute, and that this imparted an element of confusion into the whole subject, which demanded attention in the interest of secondary education. The committees in the burghs and counties who were distributing the grant in 1892 expected that this grant would be given to them as an additional fund to distribute, which would be the natural thing to expect, as it would seem only natural that this further fund should be placed in their hands. If that was not done, and a new method of distribution was introduced, it would practically oust these committees. Surely, therefore, it was a proper thing that the whole subject should be reviewed, and that this Minute, instead of being a partial one, dealing with £32,000, should deal with other money also, and place the distribution of the whole of it on similar principles. The Lord Advocate had stated with truth that these Minutes could be re-called at will, and the Minute said on the face of it that no action was to be taken for a month. They called attention to it in the interests of the committees. They also called attention to the Minute in the interest of the schools, as it held out the hope of sharing in £32,000 upon application to the Scottish Education Department. Although the applications were not to be sent in till the 1st October,

they might begin to be sent in now, and the schools might at once take steps to secure a share in the amount, so that it was not correct to say no action could be taken at present. Those who could not afford to wait could commence at once to secure it. They were also desirous of calling attention to the confusion which beset the subject. The Lord Advocate said this Minute went back to the principles of 1892. Did the hon. Gentleman remember that the Minute of 1892 was rejected in consequence of discussion in the House of Commons? If they had an opportunity of bringing the substantial merits of the case before the House, and could argue that to proceed by Minute instead of by legislation was a mistaken and unfortunate process, he thought they would be able so to convince the House. It would be a very great convenience to have all these Minutes in a collective form. In deference to the feeling entertained in the House, and in the Committees of Schools in Scotland, who had not had an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon the subject, he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to take no action until the House had a chance of debating the question.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) hoped the Lord Advocate would respond to the appeal of the right hon. Gentleman. Would the right hon. Gentleman ensure on behalf of the Government that there would be an adequate opportunity of discussing this Minute and the various questions arising on it?

*MR. GRAHAM MURRAY said the hon. Gentleman might be quite sure that he would represent what the wishes of Members on the other side were, and he was quite sure that his noble friend Lord Balfour would give them most favourable consideration. He must deprecate an actual pistol being put to his head, but he could assure hon. Members that he would transmit their views. More than that he did not think he could be fairly asked to say.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said he was sure the right hon. Gentleman, in representing the feelings of the House to Lord Balfour, would not underrate the strength of that feeling, and, relying on the undertaking the right hon. Gentleman had given, he asked leave to withdraw his motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

FINANCE BILL.

Order for Committee read.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) moved :

"That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to divide the Bill into two parts, and to report to the House in the first place the portions dealing with Customs, stamps, and income-tax ; and in the second place that dealing with the National Debt."

He said his object was to separate from the Bill the part which dealt with the National Debt, and he claimed support for his motion on the grounds of precedent and convenience. The precedence in the past had all been in favour of having any legislation in connection with the National Debt separated from the ordinary finance legislation of the year. That was done in 1885, in 1886, and in 1887. When the present First Lord of the Admiralty diminished the debt charge from £28,000,000 to £26,000,000, the right hon. Gentleman brought in a Bill for that object, and when he subsequently reduced it he brought in a separate Bill to deal with it. Again, in reference to the Finance Bill of 1894, when the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire introduced his Finance Bill, a similar instruction was moved in the House by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the London University, that it should be divided into two parts, a motion which was strongly supported by the present First Lord of the Admiralty, but successfully resisted by the right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire on the ground that a single Bill should contain all the financial arrangements of the year. In 1894, however, the Budget touched the National Debt in a trifling degree, but here the Chancellor of the Exchequer was making one of the largest alterations that could be made in the law, for he was reducing the permanent National Debt charge not only that year, but for the years to come. He thought, therefore, in view of the precedents of the past, and in view of convenience in the future, it would be very much better that part 5 should be separated from the rest of the Bill, and such a course would not in any sense delay the passing of the two measures.

SIR J. LENG (Dundee) formally seconded the instruction.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to divide the Bill into two parts, and to report to the House in the first place the portions dealing with Customs, Stamps, and Income-tax ; and, in the second place that dealing with the National Debt"—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): The hon. Member has based his instruction on the grounds of precedent and convenience, and I oppose it for both reasons. The precedent is that of 1894. In 1894 the National Debt was dealt with by the suspension of the old and new sinking funds, and clauses for that purpose were inserted in the Finance Act of the year ; and the precedent then set has been acted upon ever since in the annual finance of the year. On the other hand, the matter of convenience was fully discussed at that time, and although there was a difference of opinion expressed on the subject, I think no case has been now made out for departing from that precedent. It is for the general convenience of the House that all the financial arrangements of the year should be included in the one Bill.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I have a very vivid recollection of the discussion of this principle on the Budget of 1894, when the right hon. Member for the London University, warmly supported by the First Lord of the Admiralty, endeavoured to upset the proposal by which all the financial arrangements of the year were included in one Bill. I shall certainly support the Chancellor of the Exchequer in retaining the present form of the Bill, for this reason. I stated at that time that it was proper that the House of Commons should have the whole finance of the year under its view and under its discussion. This year there is a deficit, and you ought to discuss the two methods of dealing with it. It is perfectly true that in olden days we had separate Bills for almost every Customs duty, and separate resolutions, but the present arrangements have been found much more convenient, by which the whole finance of the year can be dealt with by a simple Bill, and for that reason the title of the Bill has been altered from the Customs Bill to that of

the Finance Bill, which would not be consistent if we excluded from it any matters dealing with the finance of the year. I hope, therefore, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be supported by my own party now as I myself was supported by his in 1894. The absence of the First Lord of the Admiralty will relieve the right hon. Gentleman from the fear of any difficulty which might result from a repetition of the oration that colleague made against the present arrangement on a former occasion. One reason for putting the whole finance of the year into one Bill is that the House of Commons may have absolute control of that finance. If we separate our finance into two or three Bills, one of the Bills might be rejected in another place, and the whole of the financial arrangement destroyed, whereas that House could not reject the Finance Bill unless they meant to leave the country without any pecuniary resource. For all these reasons I hope this House will adhere to the proposals made.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said it seemed to him that, although there ought to be a separate Bill for the reduction of the National Debt, Parliamentary time was so reduced, owing to the unconscionable holidays Ministers took and hon. Members supported them in taking, that there would not be an adequate opportunity for the consideration of the Bill. Though, therefore, the instruction was strictly in accordance with high financial principles, he would suggest that there was no use in pressing it.

SIR H. H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, East): I cannot support the appeal which the hon. Member has made. In 1861 Mr. Gladstone put the whole of the financial arrangements of the year into one Bill, with the avowed intention of preserving the absolute supremacy of this House over the finances of the year, and leaving to another place, in dealing with the finance resolutions, the power only to reject them altogether or to accept them altogether. I should have been very strongly opposed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he had introduced a separate Bill to deal with the reduction of the debt, and I hope my hon. friend behind me, having fully justified his statement by the action which the Opposition took

in 1894 will withdraw the instruction and spare the House the trouble of a Division.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Bill considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) moved to reduce the duty on tea from 4d. to 2d. His object was not to defeat the Budget of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but to take the opinion of the House upon the justice of reducing the duty, and concentrate the attention of the right hon. Gentleman upon the matter, in order that in the preparation of his next year's Budget he might see whether he could not give the remission in the direction desired. Tea had undoubtedly become more and more an article of drink with the working people, and it was a drink the adoption of which he thought the House of Commons should encourage as far as it was possible to do so. In the case of the labourer, and particularly the unskilled labourer, it had for some years past been taking the place of beer, and more particularly home-brewed beer. The demand which would be made upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer by this reduction of the tea duty was not a large demand, and it could easily be met by taxation in other directions. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer wished to tax the drink consumed in this country, he could easily make good his deficiencies by increased taxation on the costly wines. If he did not like that, he could turn his attention to beer and spirits. Tea was becoming a necessity of life amongst the poor, and the poorer a person was the more need he had of this article. It might be said that tea was cheap. It was a great deal cheaper than it used to be in his young days, but still that was no reason why the poor should not have increased advantages. He thought he must press the matter to a Division.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 21, to leave out the word 'fourpence,' and insert the word 'twopence.'" —(Mr. Broadhurst.)

Question proposed—

"That the word 'fourpence' stand part of the clause."

N

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I do not share the view of the hon. Member in regard to the tea duty; but even if I did I could not possibly accept an Amendment which, if carried, would reduce the revenue of the year from 1½ to 2 millions, especi-

ally when it would be impossible to make that sum up by other means.

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 246; Noes, 125.—(Division List, No. 135.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith- (Hunts)
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Beresford, Lord Charles
Bethell, Commander
Blownagree, Sir M. M.
Biddulph, Michael
Bill, Charles
Blakiston-Houston, John
Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cruddas, William Donaldson

Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Ellis, John Edward
Evershed, Sydney
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Folkestone, Viscount
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of London)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Alban's)
Gilliat, John Saunders
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (Sussex)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Joseph
Howell, William Tudor
Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick

Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Kenyon, James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Kewick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Cornwall)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edward H.
Leighton, Stanley
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (L'pool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Bulter
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonna, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
McIver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh)
McKillop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milner, Sir Frederick George
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William George
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Mysers, William Henry
Newark, Viscount
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pease, H. R. Pike (Darlington)
Pender, Sir James
Percy, Earl
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Powell, Sir Francis Sharpe
Pretymann, Ernest George

Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edinburgh)
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Linehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)

Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Ward, Hn. Robert A. (Crewe)

Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
 Wolff, Gustav. Wilhelm
 Wyndham, George
 Young, Commander (Berks. E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Allen, Wm. (Newc. under Lyme)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Athley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Bainbridge, Emerson
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Billson, Alfred
 Blake, Edward
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Crombie, John William
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Daly, James
 David, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Gardon, Sir William Brampton
 Harwood, George

Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
 Hagan, James Francis
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carm'r vonshire
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'lnd
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maden, John Henry
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkeuny)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.

Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarshi'e
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Wallace, Robert (Perth)
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudders'd
 Woods, Samuel
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Broadhurst and Mr.
 Mendl.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) moved to insert the word "foreign" before the word "wine," with the object of excluding from the extra wine duties, wine produced in any Brit-

ish colony or possession. Directly the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave notice in his Budget speech of the increased duty upon wine, he (Sir H. Vincent) notified that he should move that the extra duty should only be applied to foreign wines. He mentioned the fact because he did not wish it to be supposed that his Amendment sprang from any desire on the part

of any British colony or colonial Government to interfere in the slightest degree with the fiscal arrangements of this country, but rather from a genuine desire on behalf of a great mass of the people in this country to give better trading terms to their own kith and kin than to foreigners. The whole policy of Lord Salisbury's administration had been to do everything possible to encourage and develop trade within the Empire. Several steps had been taken in that direction. There were the colonial conferences of 1887 and 1897, which had all been in favour of better trading relations within the Empire. A very notable statement was made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March the 25th, 1896, to the effect that if the people of this country and of the colonies meant what they said and intended to approach the question of Imperial unity in a practical spirit, they must approach it from the commercial side. And following on the colonial conferences and the visit of the colonial Premiers in 1897, the Government gave notice almost immediately to terminate the treaties which prevented the colonies from putting lighter duties on British than upon foreign goods. Those treaties came to an end on the 31st of July, last, and on that very day Canada gave the United Kingdom the preference of 25 per cent in her markets over the foreigner. The Agent-General of Tasmania declared the other day, in the presence of a Member of the Government, that his colony, New Zealand, and Western Australia had Bills absolutely in preparation in order to enable them to follow the example of Canada. Besides this, Her Majesty's Government had received a cablegram from the Prime Ministers of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Western Australia, suggesting that the present was a very unfortunate time for this step to be taken. He ventured to point out to the Government that a more unfortunate moment could hardly have been chosen to propose that increase of duty, and he ventured to say, with all deference to the right hon. Gentleman, that if he persisted in maintaining the increased duties upon wine imported from the British Colonies, he would do so against the special remonstrances of the Colonial Governments and of a score of members sitting on that side of the House. The right hon. Gentleman

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would recollect the applause which he gained from both sides of the House when, in the course of his speech on Budget night, he said, in effect, he thought we had in the past paid far too much attention to the susceptibilities of foreign nations, and that it behoved us in these matters, in the future, to look after our own interests rather than the interests of foreigners. He invited the right hon. Gentleman to practise what he preached, and not to repress these natural sentiments when dealing with the colonies in commercial matters. At the same time, he cordially acknowledged, and he thought it was only right he should do so publicly, the great courtesy the Chancellor of the Exchequer had shown, in receiving the Agents General of the self-governing colonies, and in expressing his willingness, although his time was much occupied, to receive a deputation from traders on the question. The only reason why the trade did not trouble him was that they preferred to leave the representation of their case entirely in the hands of the Agents-General. Before submitting to the Committee the colonial aspect of the question, he would venture to ask leave to examine, as briefly as he possibly could, the financial aspects of the question, so far as it affected this country. If this was a matter which went to the root of the financial proposals of the Government, he freely admitted the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be thoroughly justified in resisting the Amendment to the utmost. But that was not the case. His right hon. friend expected the new wine duties to yield £420,000. Assuming the importation of colonial wine amounted to 715,000 gallons, the extra duty of 6d. a gallon would yield £17,875, and the Australian Premiers were justified in saying that that amount was beneath serious calculation in the consideration of the Budget. If his right hon. friend consented to dock that sum from the revenue he expected to derive from the new duty, he would still be left with an estimated surplus of £212,000 instead of £230,000, which would, surely, be amply sufficient for his requirements. If the revenue lost this £17,875, which it did not want, by the adoption of the Amendment, British Trade as a whole would gain far more by preventing any falling off in the production of wine in Australia, and its importation into this country; as there were people engaged in the industry—10,000 in Victoria alone—who, if they were

less employed in the production of wine, would have less money with which to buy manufactures imported from this country, and British ships engaged in the carrying of wine from Australia would have less to carry, while fewer oak staves would have to be brought from England for the manufacture of casks. Was there anything in our relations with foreign countries which prevented differentiation in favour of the colonies? On 21st August, 1894, he asked his hon. friend the Member for Poplar, then Under-Secretary for the Colonies, a question as to the opinion of the law officers of the Crown upon the conclusion of preferential trading relations between the mother country and the colonies, and his right hon. friend replied that the general effect of the stipulations in regard to import duties was that they did not prevent preferential treatment in favour of the colonies. That was at a time when the treaties of 1862 with Belgium, and 1865 with Germany, were in force. Now, those treaties had been denounced by the Government, and he submitted that the way for relieving the colonies of this import was made infinitely clearer, and there was no reason, so far as international relations are concerned, why the colonies should not be exempted from increased duty. As to the colonial point of view, when he asked that the correspondence on the question should be laid on the Table, the right honourable Gentleman, although he said it was not usual, kindly consented, but he was sorry to say that it had not yet been placed in the hands of Members. He must, therefore, trouble the Committee with a general outline of the representations made on behalf of the colonies. On 25th April the High Commissioner for Canada, the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, and the Agents-General for the Australian Colonies were received by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and on the following day they reported their answer to the Secretary for the Colonies. They said that, although not all directly concerned in the production of wine, they were all interested in the development of the trade of the outlying portions of the empire with the mother country, and all regarded with alarm the proposed increase in the wine duty. Although New South Wales, Victoria, the Cape of Good Hope, and South Australia were specially concerned in the new taxes proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, other colonies

might, sooner or later, become engaged in the wine industry, and, indeed, Canada already manufactured a large quantity of wine, the trade in which was regarded by the Canadian Government as one of the possibilities of the near future. The Colonies further submitted that the wine industry had attained its present position in the face of many difficulties, and that its very existence would be jeopardised by the proposed new duties. The industry laboured under many disadvantages. In the first place, the colonies were much farther away from the British market, and the freightage was three times as high in consequence; in the next place, oak staves had to be imported from Great Britain, to be manufactured into casks, and large stocks had to be maintained there, in consequence of the distance from the source of supply. Again, the long voyage made it necessary to keep the wine for a much longer period before it could be used, thereby preventing so rapid a turn-over of capital as was possible in the case of foreign wines. The Agents-General went on to point out that it was with the cheaper foreign wines that the colonial wines came principally into competition. Foreign wines were known by the names of the districts in which they were produced, and, although the price might be increased in consequence of the new duty, it would still be possible to provide some sort of wine at the price formerly paid. For instance, there were qualities of Medoc which could be bought at prices ranging from 12s. to 24s., and with a slight variation in quality they could be sold at the same price as heretofore. Colonial wines, on the other hand, were known by brands, and their quality must be maintained, and the extra cost involved in the duty must be added to the price, a circumstance which was calculated to affect the trade very seriously. Indeed, he had in his hands a bill for wine in which the extra duty was added to the invoice price, and he had seen an advertisement issued by one of the leading firms which dealt in Australian wines, indicating an increase of price to the extent of 6d. per gallon, or 1s. per dozen, since the Chancellor of the Exchequer had announced his proposals. He had information from reliable sources that the extra cost to the consumer would be not less than 2s. per dozen. Hon. Members would surely admit that must seriously affect trade in the future.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.) asked for further information as to the advertisement referred to.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said the advertisement was printed in the *Wine and Spirit Trade Circular* of April 12th, in the *Wine Trade Review* of April 15th, and in the *Daily Graphic*. The colonial wine industry had been in existence since before 1851. For a long time colonial wine did not find the slightest favour in this country. Indeed, it was not until the Exhibition of 1886 that the wine began to find any favour at all here. The trade was helped by the colonial feeling engendered by Lord Salisbury's colonial policy and the first colonial conference of 1887. A right hon. Member seemed to doubt that.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: My hon. friend will excuse me. I did more than that; in 1886 I lowered the duty on colonial wine from 2s. 6d. to 1s.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said he confessed that that good action on the part of the right hon. Gentleman had escaped him. He was sure the right hon. Gentleman would be anxious not to increase the duty at the present time. In 1887 the importation of colonial wine amounted to 184,000 gallons, and last year it rose to 710,863 gallons. But neither that quantity nor its total value of £115,000 compared with the importation of foreign wine, valued last year at £6,385,000. Indeed, the whole Australian production was only 6,000,000 gallons, compared with 728,000,000 gallons in France, 485,000,000 gallons in Italy, and 447,000,000 gallons in Spain. It was therefore peculiarly unfortunate that just at the moment when colonial wines were becoming more popular, and the vineyards in Australasia and South Africa were being extended, the trade should be jeopardised by this unequal impost—unequal because it would press more hardly upon the less known colonial wines, than upon celebrated foreign wines; unequal because this was practically the only overseas market for colonial wine. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated that he did not see why we should give any favour to the products of colonies which put a protective tariff upon British goods. That was a very narrow-minded view, and one unworthy of the right hon. Gentleman's

great ability. He was not by any means an advocate of the extreme protection of Victoria. But why were New South Wales, South Australia, and the Cape of Good Hope and Canada to be punished for the fiscal policy of Victoria? If the right hon. Gentleman would look at the returns of trade with Australian colonies, he would find that their imports in the year 1896 were valued at £63,000,000 sterling, and of these not less than £56,000,000 came from the British Empire, £25,000,000 being from the United Kingdom, and £31,000,000 from British possessions. Was not the right hon. Gentleman satisfied with that proportion of the total importation of goods into the Australian Colonies coming under the British flag? The exports of Australasia to the United Kingdom in the same year were £9,000,000, to British possessions £28,000,000, and to foreign countries just under £9,000,000. Then he came to South Africa. The imports into Cape Colony represented £18,000,000 sterling, and of these no less than £13,000,000 came from the United Kingdom, and £1,000,000 from British possessions. That, surely, was an additional reason why they should do all they possibly could to foster colonial industry. Would not his right hon. friend look at the subject as a whole? The right hon. Gentleman talked of "financial purism gone mad." Let him consider if his proposal was not "political economy gone mad." The Chancellor of the Exchequer feared that, if he relieved the colonies from the new duty, France, Spain, and other countries would send their wine to Australia or the Cape to come here as colonial wine. Such a suspicion would not bear one moment's examination. In the case of Australia there would be a journey of some 30,000 miles, and how would that affect the Chateau Lafitte, to say nothing of the cost? Then, as he had told the House, the lowest import duty on wine in Australia was 5s. a gallon, and it went up to 20s. "Oh! but," he had said in answer to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Isle of Thanet, "the foreign wine may be bonded at Melbourne and Sydney, and so escape the duty." In the first place, there was little trans-shipment trade in Australia, and bonding was not usual. He was sure the Chancellor of the Exchequer had no intention of imputing to the Australian or any colonial Governments that

they would enter into any conspiracy to defraud the revenue of this country. Yet that was what his suspicion amounted to. Then, if the worst came to the worst, surely the Custom House authorities in the United Kingdom, who received £1,500,000 a year in salaries and expenses, were capable of devising and carrying out regulations to prevent fraud. If they could not, let them appeal to Scotland Yard, who would show them how to prevent it. Now, he expected that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would presently produce a letter from a certain firm of shippers of Australian wine, thanking him for the new duty. But on the 14th ultimo that very firm had attended a meeting, at which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Isle of Thanet was present, and actually proposed a resolution praying the Government to refrain from levying the proposed increased duty upon wine produced within the British Empire, which would, in their opinion, be calculated to do great injury to a growing inter-British industry. On the 17th April another meeting had been held at their own offices of the representatives of the Australian wine trade, when, according to the paper he held in his hand, bearing the stamp of the firm—

“it was unanimously resolved to invite the Agents-General of the Colonies to represent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the proposed increase of duties on wines would be very prejudicial to the wine-growing colonies.”

He had the minutes of that meeting, signed by the general manager of the firm, and they bore out all his statements. He was at a loss to account for the sudden *volte face*—he had almost said the treachery to Australia—of this firm. *The Times*, he understood, admitted their letter only as an advertisement, and by large placards in grocers' windows it looked as if they were striving to unload the stock of 5,000 hogsheads they had in hand, and which had probably proved unsaleable. But the Imperial Government did not frame its Budget to suit the pocket for the moment of an individual firm of wine merchants, whatever adulation that might bring to the Chancellor. The views of the Premiers of Australasian Colonies, the views of the responsible Governments of all the colonies, had been submitted to Her Majesty's Government through the official and accredited channels. It was to these

views, and not to those of some one wine merchant who liked to have the duties increased that he might have the opportunity of raising the cost to the public of his wines in stock, that the Government was bound to give consideration. Since the letter in question appeared, the Government of South Australia had cabled to the Hon. Dr. Cockburn, its Agent-General, as the result of a meeting in Adelaide, “Vinegrowers unite in representing injury to trade if increase of duty enforced.” What was the use of Greater Britain exhibitions if this was the way we acted in this country? He thanked the Committee for its attention. He urged hon. members without reference to party or mere party politics to support this Amendment. He begged the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who had up to the present shown such far-reaching Imperial spirit, to use his influence with the Chancellor of the Exchequer so far as to induce him to give way. He implored his right hon. friend himself, not wanting the money, to abstain, for such a trifle, from doing a wrong to the colonies at total variance with the general policy of the Government. At any rate, he hoped to receive from him a sympathetic reply, and that he would at least feel himself able to give the assurance that if, as foreshadowed by the Premier of New South Wales, the federal tariff of Australasia differentiated in favour of British goods, the mother country would not be backward in differentiating in favour of colonial products. This course would encourage the development of trade in all parts of the British Empire, and stimulate that healthy feeling which in recent years had existed between the mother land and her daughter colonies.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 1, after the word ‘on,’ insert the word ‘foreign.’”—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed—

“That the word ‘foreign’ be there inserted.”

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH When I found, in arranging the finances of the year, that I had to provide for a sum of nearly £900,000 by additional taxation, of course I had to consider from what source it should come. I might have increased the income-tax by a half penny in the pound, and by adding a

small amount to the stamp duties, which I now propose, I might have made up the sum required. But that would not have been agreeable to my hon. friend who has proposed this motion, or my hon. friends generally on this side of the House. I thought that a part, at any rate, of the sum required ought to be found by indirect taxation. I had to choose between certain articles—wine, beer, tobacco, and spirits. I chose wine. It seemed to me that the other three articles were the object of large manufacturing industries in this country and articles largely consumed by the poor, and, at any rate with regard to beer and spirits, the raw material was also largely produced in this country, and I considered I had no right, if I could avoid it, to disturb industries of that kind. I turned to wine because it is a luxury which is produced abroad. The industry in this country connected with it is a distributing, not a manufacturing, industry, and the old duty on wine was less in this country on an average, in proportion to its value, than the duty on beer and very much less than the duty on spirits or tobacco; and, further, as I think everyone knows, our wine duties are far lower than those of other countries. This proposal of mine has been represented as if it were a kind of wanton attack on a colonial industry. As a matter of fact, out of the imports of wine into this country in a year, some 17,500,000 gallons come from foreign countries, and only 750,000 gallons from our colonies, and, as my hon. friend has admitted, out of £420,000 additional revenue which I hope to raise by additional taxation on wine, less than £20,000, on the present basis, would be paid by the products of the colonies. Therefore, when this is alluded to, as it was the other day by no less a person than Lord Rosebery, as simply laying a tax on the produce of the Australian vineyards in order to raise a comparatively small sum of money, I certainly demur to such a representation. Now, my hon. friend says it is a small matter; that if we accepted his motion we should only lose a sum of £17,875 a year—very little to this country, but very little also to the colonies. It is not a financial matter of any great importance, but my hon. friend has raised a principle the importance of which I do not think he has adequately represented to the Committee, and it is for that reason, and not on account of the

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small sum involved, that I feel compelled to object to his proposal. Let me call the attention of the Committee to the facts with regard to our Customs tariff. Any addition, I will venture to say, to the duties raised by Customs in this country upon any article which produces a considerable Customs revenue must affect colonial interests, and in most cases would affect them more largely than the proposed increase of the duties on wine. Take, for instance, tea. The great bulk of the total imports of tea comes from India and Ceylon. I do not propose to increase the duties on tea, but any increase in those duties would affect our colonies far more than the increase I now propose. Take spirits. Of the amount of spirits imported into this country annually our colonies send something like a proportion of 43 to 55 from foreign countries—not far short of half. I remember that five years ago, when the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth was obliged to increase the duty on spirits by 6d. a gallon, the result was that £95,000 in the course of the year was raised from this colonial product. Lord Rosebery was the head of the Government at the time. I suppose he was an Imperialist then, subject to the counsels of the right hon. Gentleman, but no one ever suggested that in the course then taken he was adopting a melancholy method of promoting and spreading Imperialism.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: No, Sir.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: No; yet what is the difference between the action then taken and the action I now propose as far as colonial interests are concerned? Merely this, that the Government of that day, in raising the duty on spirits, extracted £95,000 from colonial products, while I propose, according to my hon. friend, to extract under £18,000—not more than one-fifth of the sum then imposed. And so, if I were to go on to other articles on which we levy Customs Duties, such as cocoa or coffee, I find a greater proportion of cocoa and coffee imported into this country comes from our colonies than of wine. Someone has mentioned sugar. Well, it has been proposed by some people that a Customs Duty should be imposed on sugar. Is it not obvious that if any proposal of that sort were made, colonial

interests would be far more affected than by the addition of taxation on wine? The proposal of my hon. friend, therefore, is a very far-reaching proposal indeed, and probably if he were staunch to his principles, as I am sure he is, he would raise it in reference to any article on which Customs Duties are levied, or could be raised. What my hon. friend, therefore, asks me to do is to adopt a precedent which would involve a return to a system of differential duties in regard to our colonies, which was abolished 40 years ago. He asked us to depart from our revenue tariff, of which the most important principle is a system of equal rates upon the same products from whatever country they may come, and to adopt a differential system in favour of the colonies. Well, that must carry with it very important changes, and it would be necessary to return to all those precautions against fraudulent entries, all those provisions in regard to place of origin, and all the trammels on freedom of movement, the abolition of which has done more for the interests of the trade and commerce of the country than the abolition of the duties themselves. It is that and nothing else that my hon. friend asks us to do for the sake of this small sum of £17,000 a year levied on imports which are practically confined to the wines of two colonies, Victoria and South Australia, amounting in value to no more than £112,000, out of the total exports sent by these Colonies to this country of £7,500,000. I do not think the occasion is quite worthy of the proposal which my hon. friend has made. But let me see what it is he really desires. I think I am not misinterpreting my hon. friend when I say in words that have been adopted by the Agents-General of the colonies concerned, that he desires to develop trade between the outlying portion of the Empire and the Mother Country. Of course, he does not desire that any tariff concession should be made on one side only. That would not be the way to encourage trade. He desires that the concessions should be mutual, and that what we do for Australia, Australia should do for us. Now that is a very agreeable idea, but I venture to suggest that it is an idea extremely difficult to put in practice. I will tell my hon. friend why. He is, I know, in favour of a return to the old Customs tariff of 50 or 60 years ago, with its

duties on I know not how many articles. But he must take our tariff as he now finds it, a revenue tariff, comprising very few articles indeed, which is therefore very far from being adapted to the process of bargaining which my hon. friend tries to promote. Of course, if he had his way, it might be possible to reduce the duties on wine in favour of certain colonies. By the way, I think the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth was mistaken in saying that he reduced the duties on colonial wine. What he did was to raise the alcoholic scale from 26 to 30, and, as a matter of fact, all Australian wines being under 26 came in before at the lowest rate of duty.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I remember the deputation well, and their asking me to put them under the Spanish tariff.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I have made careful inquiries, with the result I have mentioned. My hon. friend would bargain with certain colonies to reduce the duties on their wines in return for certain concessions; with other colonies for a reduction of the duty on spirits; with others for the reduction of duty on cocoa or coffee, or whatever may be their special product. Well, if you made an agreement on these points, what would happen? Foreign countries would come and say, "You have made such an arrangement with your colonies, will you make a similar arrangement with us?" What would my hon. friend say to that? If he accepted the proposal he would at once find himself entangled in the meshes of the most-favoured-nation clause, and the whole of his plan would fall through; while if he declined the proposal the foreign country would have a grievance against this country, far greater in amount than any increase of duty on equal terms would be. Although I do not wish to attach undue importance to the anger of foreign countries, yet I cannot forget that no less than two-thirds of our trade is with foreign countries, and we should have to be very careful in any arrangement to which we agreed that we did not lose a great deal more than we could gain. But assuming that my hon. friend means to enter into an arrangement with the colonies, and not with foreign countries, at any rate you must deal equally with all the colonies. Now the articles on our tariff come from

our tropical colonies, and when our powers of dealing with them are exhausted, suppose any of our other colonies not producing wine, cocoa, coffee, or any other article on our tariff were to come and say "You have made arrangements with other colonies for preferential treatment, what are you going to do for us? We admit your goods on as favourable terms as they do; you must give us some differential treatment which would favour our goods on your market." Is my hon. friend prepared, or is the Committee prepared, to impose a differential duty—which will have to be of a substantial amount to be of any use—on corn and timber from foreign countries in favour of corn or timber from Canada? I am afraid I am detaining the Committee at some length, but I felt it was only right to put before them, as shortly as possible, the difficulties and dangers which I see in the policy to which we are asked to commit ourselves. But I admit that there is something to be said on the other side, and that this question cannot be treated solely as a fiscal question. It is not merely a matter of pounds, shillings and pence. There is nothing more remarkable in recent years than the growth in this country and in the colonies of the Imperial sentiment—the desire in every way possible to promote more and more Imperial unity; and it may be that as this sentiment grows means may be reached for overcoming obstacles and removing difficulties which to my mind are grave indeed. In this connection my hon. friend has alluded to a telegram from Mr. G. Reid, who occupies a very high and important position in Australia. Mr. Reid telegraphs:—"Colonial Premiers are favourably disposed towards in future making differences in favour of British goods, and this disposition will, it is hoped, bear practical proof under federation." Well, I hope federation is rapidly approaching in Australia. I am quite sure that, whatever Government may be in office in this country, if, after federation, the Australian Federal Government approached this country with suggestions by which greater freedom of trade can be mutually promoted between this country and Australia, that suggestion would meet with the most careful examination and sympathetic consideration. But we have nothing of the kind at the present moment. If my hon. friend

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derives any hope from the telegram, it is a hope relating to the future. At the present time we have to deal with the fact that this request my hon. friend has placed before the Committee is practically a request from two colonies, Victoria and South Australia; and these colonies are not prepared in any way, so far as I know, to make any mutual arrangement of the kind which my hon. friend desires. These two colonies at the present moment are thoroughly protectionist in their tariffs against our manufactures and the manufactures of other countries; and I do not understand, I confess, the policy of my hon. friend for desiring to give to these two colonies what at any rate they appear to feel would be a matter of great importance to them—namely, a preferential treatment in our market in return for nothing whatever on their side. That is the proposal. Now, whatever the force of sentiment in this matter, and I admit the force is very great indeed, surely the sentiment might be tempered with a little business-like consideration; and I think if my hon. friend would devote his attention to the subject from that point of view, he would see that in the interest of the policy he had suggested we should not give away all we had to offer without getting something in return. What are the facts with regard to these two colonies? My hon. friend said that the wine industry in Victoria and South Australia was handicapped by the necessity of having to import casks or oak staves from this country. Now, as a matter of fact, both colonies impose heavy import duties on empty casks, and one imposes a heavy duty on oak staves. These colonies complain of an additional 6d. per gallon duty on wines, while they impose a duty of from 10d. to 1s. 2d. per gallon on English beer, which is practically more than its value—more than 100 per cent. Then, if I turn to clothing, furniture, woollen goods, soap, saddlery, and the most important kinds of machinery, and blacksmiths' and other tools—which, I believe, are made in Sheffield—I find an *ad valorem* duty ranging up to 25, or even 35 per cent. imposed on the goods I have mentioned. Well, I do not think the proposal of my hon. friend, even from his point of view, is quite reasonable at the present time. But there is another argument. It is said by the Agents-General, and my

hon. friend has repeated the statement to-night, that the very existence of these industries in these colonies is jeopardised by the additional 6d. per gallon which we propose to impose on wines. And my hon. friend has stated to the Committee certain reasons, in his opinion, and in that of the Agents-General, why that will have this effect. First of all there is the argument of distance. The freight is more, larger stocks of wine have to be kept, and they have to be kept for a longer time, so that capital is turned over less quickly. Then the wines of Australia are wines that are known by certain brands; they have to reach that standard, and they cannot be manipulated in the manner in which French or German wines are manipulated in order to meet any increase of duty. That is the argument. But it is a fact that there are no vintage wines sold in this country from Australia; and as one vintage must certainly differ from another in quantity and quality, there must be a blending of Australian wines in order to keep them up to their proper standard. Therefore, although I do not profess to understand the secrets of the trade, I do not see why there should not be the same opportunity for making up Australian wines to meet an increased duty as there is with French and German wines. But whatever the force of this argument may be, what I would place before the Committee is this—that in spite of these disabilities the industry has grown and flourished, and reached its present dimensions under a system of equal duties. My hon. friend made use of a letter from a firm to which he alluded. Well, I have made inquiries on the point, and I find that Messrs. Bourgoyne, who wrote this letter, are justified in the statement which they made that they originally introduced Australian wines to the British public, and have annually, during 28 years, paid more duty on such wines than all the rest of the trade put together. They are, I believe, importers both from Victoria and South Australia, and are themselves owners of vineyards in Victoria. They say that “the thanks of the vine-growing interests are, in their opinion, due to me for not conceding preferential duties to Australian wines.” They say that “such preference would have ruined the industry,” and that my “decision saved it.” They say that “the industry requires no nursing, that there is a force behind it which is fast raising it to the level of the

foremost wine countries in the world, that the competition they supply is invigorating and helpful. We do not think the tax will limit the consumption of Australian wines, but, on the contrary, judging by our own business, it appears to have given the trade an extraordinary impetus, in spite of the natural disturbance which a change of prices brings about. There has been no covering up the extra tax.” My hon. friend made a great deal of the fact that in regard to the Australian wines notice has been given by the merchants who deal in them of an increase in the price due to the increase in the duty.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thonet): An increase of double the amount of duty.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: Yes, that is a very common practice, but I did not think my right hon. friend was so guileless as not to see what action of that sort on the part of the wine merchants may mean.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: May I hand to the right hon. Gentleman papers which bear the signature of the firm of which he has given the name, showing exactly the contrary? Here is a resolution proposed by the general manager of the firm at a meeting of the representatives of the Australian wine trade:

“It was unanimously resolved to invite the Agents-General of the Colonies to represent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the proposed increase of duties on wines would be very prejudicial to the wine-growing Colonies.”

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I do not doubt it in the least. These gentlemen were naturally banded together for a certain time, as long as they thought that their common action might induce me to adopt the proposal of the Agents-General; but as soon as they found that I was not prepared to adopt that resolution, then their opinion changed as I have stated. But my main point is this: the proposal of my hon. friend is a most important and a far-reaching one. It is not a mere matter of sentiment, or a mere matter of £17,000 a year. It goes very far beyond that. It is a proposal that can only be accepted by this country after grave consideration and examination of all that it might lead to. We are asked to accept it, not as an arrangement of a mutual character between any colony or colonies

and ourselves, although that is the essence of the policy of my hon. friend : we are asked to give it in return for nothing, to two 'protectionist colonies which impose very high duties on the goods of the mother country. I say that in such a case as this, to my mind it would be utterly unreasonable that we who bear the burdens of Empire should surrender our fiscal freedom in the way my hon. friend proposes. I hope he will not press this motion to a Division. I believe it would do more harm than good ; but if he does press it to a Division, I would ask the Committee to decide against him.

SIR H. H. FOWLER: The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer told us very frankly, that when he was face to face with his deficit of £900,000, he had turned his attention to different branches of indirect taxation. But he forgot to tell the Committee this deficit had been created entirely by himself, by taking off last year a very large sum of indirect taxation, which has benefited nobody except a few happy manufacturers of the article, and still happier retailers, who have put into their own pockets what I may call this differential duty to which the right hon. Gentleman objected to in the case of pure wines. I regret that the question of throwing away this million and a half last year could not be raised on the last Amendment, for that is really the source of the difficulty with which we are confronted to-day. I also agree with my hon. friend opposite that this is a very unfortunate time at which to impose additional duties on wines, not only as regards the colonies, but as regards foreign nations. However, the proposal of the hon. Member for Sheffield is pure and simple protection. You may call it differential duty ; you may call it the establishment of a better feeling between ourselves and the colonies ; but the proposal really is that a tax is to be put on the English consumer, who would pay the whole of the duty, no matter whether the wine comes from Australia or Canada, the Cape, or from France. The proposal is simply this, that so much of that tax as is paid on foreign wines will not go into the pocket of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but go at a bound into the pockets of the wine producers in the colonies. I challenge a contradiction of that as a proper statement of the case. The colonial merchant, if he had got a

large stock of wine on which he had paid the lowest duties, would raise a very large profit, for the consumer would have to pay the full duty, and the difference would go into the pockets of these gentlemen, who would be rightly thankful to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the same. The colonial producer would raise his price to what would be a sufficient difference between himself and the producer in foreign countries to give him practically a command of the market, and he would put the difference which would be paid by the English consumer into his pocket. I will not go over the admirable arguments of the Chancellor of the Exchequer against differential duties, although I think, to some extent, the right hon. Gentleman has admitted the principle that these preferential duties may be bargained for in some shape or form. Whether it may be called free trade purism or free trade pedantry, it is the doctrine of free traders to which we on this side certainly adhere, that all these bargainings are to the disadvantage of the consumer, that they hamper trade, and that they benefit no one except a few fortunate individuals who put the money in their own pockets. I would ask the hon. Gentleman where he proposed to stop. Will he stop with wine, or is he going on to spirits and other commodities which the colonies produce ? And is he going to confine his favours simply to the colonies ? We have many questions raised nowadays as to the financial relations of the different parts of the United Kingdom. Why do not the producers of spirits in Ireland or Scotland claim some advantage over spirits produced in foreign countries which come into this country ? The whole system of differential duties was abandoned forty years ago, under the circumstances mentioned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, especially with relation to sugar, and its importation from our own colonies. The whole thing went when Free Trade was established, and the hon. Member for Sheffield has given no ground whatever why he should impose this tax upon ourselves for the benefit of the producers of the colonies. I agree with the Chancellor of the Exchequer that this would be an injury to the colonies and colonial trade instead of a benefit. The injury is not in the imposition of the duty, but in the diminished trade it would create. A less quantity of wine would

Sir M. Hicks-Beach.

come from the colonies on account of the increase in price, and also from France for the same reason, and a great deal of the beneficial legislation which was inaugurated thirty years ago would be seriously hampered if the proposal were adopted. I would put it to the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is not possible to meet the colonial case, and also the case of those at home to whom wine is not a luxury, namely, the lower middle classes, who are the consumers in this country of cheap light wines. The right hon. Gentleman told us that the bulk of the wines that came from Australia were under 26 degrees alcohol strength. If he would take out the first item from the Schedule, and confine his increases to the wines above 26 degrees, he would so alter his alcoholic scale as to allow cheap French and colonial wines to come in at the same rate together, and I do not think that the loss to him would be more than £100,000. In this way the difficulty would be solved. That question, I believe, will come on later upon an Amendment by one of my hon. friends behind me, and to that Amendment I shall give my support. But, on the grounds stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, I, and I hope every gentleman on this side of the House, will support the Government in its resistance to the retrograde policy which is involved in the proposal of the hon. Member.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER said he was not going to be tempted by the right hon. Gentleman, who had sought to drag the red herring of Protection across their path. This question had nothing to do with Protection; it was simply a proposal to afford to our fellow-subjects in other parts of the empire a reasonable preference in our trade. He was much disappointed at the tone of his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer. At this moment overtures were being made to us by our most influential colonies. Canada had accorded to Great Britain a distinct preference in her tariff, and the Prime Minister of one of our Australian colonies, New South Wales, which had never hitherto been identified with Protection, had indicated that he and his brother Australasian Premiers were anxious to reciprocate with us on the question of preferential trading. Yet, this was the moment when the right hon. Gentleman dwelt upon every conceivable difficulty which could be raised against this principle. The right

hon. Gentleman answered himself, because in his speech a few nights ago he had pointed out that the foreign countries whom he feared would enter upon reprisals had already taxed our goods as much as they possibly could, or, at all events, had consulted their own interests and not ours. How could the right hon. Gentleman reconcile his sentiments with those of some of his colleagues? Lord Salisbury had said it was to the trade which was carried on between the empire and this country that we should have to look for the vital forces in the future in the commerce of this country. The Secretary for the Colonies said experience taught them to draw closer to the colonies. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not quite closed the door, he certainly had not done anything to open it to a closer union between the several branches of the empire. He was greatly disappointed at the retrograde action of his right hon. friend, coming as it did upon the far more enlightened utterances of Lord Salisbury and the Secretary for the Colonies. The want of sympathy of his right hon. friend towards this question of inter-British trade was lamentable. Here was an opportunity for the Government to perform a graceful act which would have been much appreciated by our colonies, and which would have cost a mere bagatelle, but his right hon. friend had discarded that opportunity, and had taken refuge in the miserable platitudes of the Cobden Club.

MR. LAMBERT (Devon, South Molton) wished to explain his position with regard to this matter by drawing attention to the fact that, in a period of unexampled prosperity, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was reduced to the miserable expedient of placing a tax upon cheap colonial wines. It was regrettable that this proposal should come from a Unionist Chancellor of the Exchequer, because the Unionist party had said so much about developing the resources of our Empire and bringing the colonies and the mother country together. He quite agreed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his right hon. friend below him that preferential duties as between the colonies and the mother country would cause bickerings and ill-feeling between the different colonies. Having gone to the country clothed almost in the Union Jack, the Government now proposed to put a tax on the colonies which was resented

by the whole of the Australian colonies, which had sent letters to the right hon. Gentleman asking him to exclude these wines from this duty. The proposal of the hon. Gentleman opposite could be carried out in a different way. Nearly all the colonial wines came into this country under 20 degrees of proof spirit, and if the duty was allowed to remain as at present on wine under 30 degrees of proof spirit, that would practically cover the colonial grievance. He deeply regretted that a Unionist Government should have so irritated colonial feeling at this critical period in the history of our colonies.

MR. GALLOWAY said he wholly objected to this tax, and though he was in hearty sympathy with his hon. friend he could not vote for this motion, because it did not express the principles which his hon. friend had laid down. As he was not prepared to vote against it he was in a dilemma, and therefore he did not propose to vote at all. Having, however, just returned from the colonies, he was in a position to say how much the action of the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be misinterpreted, not only by the whole of the wine trade, but the colonies at large. He recognised the difficulties of the fiscal policy, but did not sympathise with the protectionist view which ran through the debate. Although the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had intimated his intention to stand to his resolution to increase the wine duties, he hoped that before the debate terminated some arrangement would be come to by which these particular wines might be exempted from extra taxation. But whether that took place or not, in his opinion a more unfortunate time could not have been chosen at which to put the proposal forward. Even if at the eleventh hour the right hon. Gentleman would withdraw the proposal, he would call forth an expression of gratitude from the colonies.

COLONEL PILKINGTON (Lancashire, Newton) had no doubt that advantage

ought to be taken of every possibility to improve our trade relations with the colonies. He was pleased to think that the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had admitted that there was some weakness in the position which he had taken up. The right hon. Gentleman said he did not think the time was convenient to accede to the request in the matter of the wine duties, but that he looked with favour upon the suggestion. He thought that this was an opportunity when we might do something to help, please and conciliate the colonies in a small matter, and at the same time of enlarge the trade of the empire. He did not think there need be any fear with regard to what foreign nations might do in the matter, inasmuch as we were the largest customers that they had, and everybody might be quite sure that they would not quarrel over tariff. He therefore did not see the danger to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had alluded, whilst if this proposal were persisted in it would be a matter of great irritation to the colonies. He had great pleasure in supporting the Amendment.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton) regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not seen his way to accept the Amendment, because in his opinion, in addition to affecting the flow of trade and the interest of the consumers, these duties had a tendency to strain the relations existing between the mother country and the colonies. We ought in a question of this kind to lay aside the hard view of political economy, and try to see whether sentiment between the mother country and her daughters, the colonies, should not exercise some influence in drawing closer the bond of relationship. He was one of those who hoped the time would come when there would be Free Trade between all parts of the empire, but he was afraid that that time was still very far off.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 37; Noes, 192. (Division List, No. 136.)

AYES.

Bartley, George C. T.
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)

Daly, James
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donelan, Captain A.
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George

Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Hardy, Laurence
Hogan, James Francis
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
Howell, William Tudor

Mr. Lambert.

Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Lorne, Marquess of
MacAleese, Daniel
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Myers, William Henry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkeny)

Power, Patrick Joseph
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos Myles
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)

Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Howard Vincent and
Mr. Pilkington.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, R.Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt.Hn.A.H. Smith (Hunts)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Blake, Edward
Blakiston-Houston, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas, Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Colville, John
Corbett, A. Cameron, (Glasgow)
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitz Wygiam, General Sir F.
Folkestone, Viscount
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis
Garfit, William

Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, R.Hn. G. J. (St George's
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Harwood, George
Haelett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hazel, Walter
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Helder, Augustus
Hemphil, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Alexander
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hn Sir U
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leng, Sir John
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Lewis, John Herbert
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset
Llewellyn Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Lloyd-George, David
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
Lowe, Francis William
Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonna, John Cumming
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
McGhee, Richard
McKillop, James
McLaren, Charles Benjamin
McLeod, John
Maden, John Henry
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Milton, Viscount
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)

Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. Deptford
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Mount, William George
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
Oldroyd, Mark
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pierpoint, Robert
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretymann, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin)
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlepool)
Rickett, J. Compton
Ritchie, Rt Hon Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Souttar, Robinson
Speier, Albert
Stanley, Hon. Arthur. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lanes.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
Wallace, Robert (Perth)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir
William Walrond and Mr.
Anstruther.

MR. COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin) said the object of the Amendment he now rose to move was to secure that the duty should be the same on the same wines whether imported in cask or in bottle. That had, for a long time, been the principle of their wine duties. Indeed, he thought he might say that the principle of taxing the same wine at the same rate of duty was always the idea aimed at by successive Chancellors of the Exchequer. It had been realised for a long time past that, in whatever form the wine was imported, the duty should be calculated at the same rate. In suggesting that the same rate should be maintained and continued, whether the wine was imported in cask or in bottle, he knew he lost the support of the members of the wine trade itself. They were friendly to an increase of duty on wine imported in bottle, and the reason was not far to seek. If they put a different rate of duty on wine in bottle from that on wine in cask, the wine being absolutely the same, they made the importation of the wine in cask put on the market in this country cheaper, and the work of bottling was transferred from the foreign country to this. The members of the wine trade had intimated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that they were not opposed in principle to differentiation of duties on wine in bottles and wine in casks, but they considered the proposed increase too high. He confessed he thought the fact that they were friendly to the change was something which ought to put all persons not interested in the trade in opposition to it, because they must conceive that the proposal was favourable to them as a class, and for the same reason it must be injurious to the consumers as a whole. It was to the interest of the consumers that the trade should be perfectly free and unaffected by the imposition of any fiscal duties. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had expressed the opinion that upon this change he anticipated that a good deal of wine which had hitherto been brought in bottles would, in future, be brought in casks, and that there would be no cheap wine in bottles. If that view were sound, he appealed to those interested in the freedom of trade, and who take it that the theory of our fiscal system was not to interfere with the natural course of trade, to support him. The interest of the consumer was the first and last thing to be regarded in this matter, and they ought,

therefore, to secure that the same rate of duty should be paid on wine brought to this country, whether it came in one way or another. He was surprised to see how the system in force had stimulated a small trade between the consumers and the merchants. He pointed to the fact that under the freedom of trade which had hitherto existed the wine merchant on the Continent had traded directly with the consumer here without the intervention of a middleman, and an international intercourse had thus been developed which they ought to jealously safeguard. It might be suggested that after the Bill is passed, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer carried out his proposed change, the consumers might still trade direct, and import in cask and bottle for themselves. That would not be so, and a large number of small consumers who now obtained the small quantities of wine they required for domestic consumption direct from the merchant abroad would entirely discontinue the importation to which they had been accustomed, or such importation would be greatly reduced, and private consumers would be deterred from doing so. What was the reason for making the change? If the wine was different he could conceive some argument in its favour. Different wines paid a different duty, but the same wine should pay the same duty, however it was imported. The only possible reason was to be found in the statement that bottled wines were dearer than higher class wines, and that, therefore, the higher rate of duty produced an *ad valorem* duty. That statement was not true, because the wine which was imported in bottle was the wine which would not bear the cost of being imported in cask and afterwards bottled in this country. It was the wine which was cheap in price and which was capable of being imported in casks. The wines of the Rhine and Moselle were cheap, nutritious, and highly recommended by the faculty as of delicate bouquet and flavour; but they were just the class of wines which would lose their special quality if they were imported in wood, and it were then attempted to bottle them here. In the interest of health, as well as of commerce, he should strongly deprecate the establishment, for the first time in a great number of years, of a principle that they should pay a higher rate of duty on wine brought here in bottles than on wines brought here in

casks, only for the interests of the bottlers here. In no other interest could it be alleged that this duty should be established. What he had said applied not only to the wines brought into this country from Germany and France, but to Italian wines, which were imported direct in bottles, and which were of good quality, cheap, nutritious, and wholesome. He failed to see any reason which justified the Chancellor of the Exchequer in dealing with wines in this way. If the right hon. Gentleman retained the principle of securing a higher rate of duty on wine in bottle than on the same wine in wood, they should have to examine hereafter what that rate of duty might be. He might for the present point out that if they established a higher rate of duty, however small the addition might be, they introduced a taxation of the alcohol in these cheap wines out of all proportion to the duty on alcohol in the form of pure spirits. He believed, considering the alcohol that was to be found in the cheap wines of the Moselle country, that the actual rate of taxation per gallon of alcohol under the Chancellor of the Exchequer's scale would be something like 2s. on Moselle, as compared with 10s. 6d., which was the duty upon a gallon of proof spirits—nearly two and a half times as much. In regard to the wines of France, the duty on the alcohol in the wine was equivalent to something like 16s. per gallon. These were excessive rates, and to propose such a plan was a retrograde step and abandonment of the fiscal policy which Mr. Gladstone adopted in 1861—which had been followed with great success ever since—of endeavouring to get, through fiscal changes, an alteration in the drinking habits of the country, whereby, in place of the old, strong, heavy wines, or the still stronger spirits, which were the consumption of former generations, they might find a large class of this country approaching in their drinking habits the habits of the Continent, where they saw wines freely consumed as table wines and where they rarely saw an illustration of excess in their consumption. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was going back upon that policy, and was doing so in an aggravated form, for he was proposing to put on cheap wines in bottles an increase of 150 per cent.—2s. instead of 6d.—over the rate of duty which he proposed to put on wines in casks. He strongly

urged on the right hon. Gentleman the expediency of abolishing the differentiation he proposed, and of laying down the principle that, whatever increase he might seek to establish in the duty on wine, the same duty should be put on wine in bottles as upon wine in casks, provided it was one and the same wine. If they could make a distinction as to the wine, that would be a very different matter; but wine of the same kind should be charged one and the same duty in whatever form or vehicle it was brought into this country. For all those reasons he begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 2, line 5, to leave out 'other than still wine in bottle.'"—(*Mr. Courtney.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words 'other than still wine in bottle' stand part of the Clause."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: My hon. friend has accused me of going back on the policy of Mr. Gladstone in the matter of the amount of duty to be levied on the lighter wines. But, so far from going back on Mr. Gladstone's policy, I am in direct accordance with it. Under the treaty with France in 1860 the duty on still wines in bottles, as compared with wines in wood, was placed as I proposed to place it in this Bill. That treaty lasted without any complaint until 1866, when a commercial treaty was made with Austria, which equalised the duty, so far as Austria was concerned, on wines in bottles with wines in wood. Then, under the most-favoured-nation clause, the provisions of that treaty were extended to all other countries; and thus, without any action on the part of France, the extra duty on still wines was abolished and has remained abolished ever since. The Austrian treaty was denounced in 1876, and therefore the concession no longer secures us any advantage. Mr. Gladstone's policy was distinctly to impose an extra tax on wines in bottle as distinct from wines in cask. Now I propose to re-establish that policy. And why? Because I am convinced that every one of these wines—except, perhaps, those to which the right hon. Gentleman has alluded, can just as well be imported in wood as in bottle. In fact, they are so imported at the present time. The total importation of Italian wines in 1898 was 402,000 gallons in cask and only about 32,000

gallons in bottles. The importation of still wines in 1897 was 14,500,000 gallons in cask, and only a little over 1,000,000 in bottle. Therefore, Sir, what I am aiming at in this proposal is this—that the more expensive still wines, the only wines which will in future come in bottle, should pay some extra duty. That, no doubt, is tantamount to an *ad valorem* duty. But, Sir, I have considered this matter, which has been before me in its various aspects, and I think that for various reasons, even for the sake of revenue, I have put the duty rather too high. What I suggest is that the Amendment should be accepted, and that later on a surtax of 1s. per gallon on still wines imported in bottle should be placed in the Bill instead of the present proposal. The effect of that will be a reduction of 6d. per gallon in the duty I have proposed on wines in bottles. There may be some slight loss of revenue; but I do not think it will be much, because the lower duty will cause the cheaper wine to come in more in bottle than it would have come in under the higher duty.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE appealed to his right hon. friend the Member for Bodmin to accept the amended proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The cheaper wines were being increasingly used in this country, and if it was desirable that the consumption of the lighter class of wines should be encouraged, the wines upon which the right hon. Gentleman proposed to put a duty were especially deserving of the attention of the House. Although they would be less hard hit under the new proposal than under the original proposal it would still remain true that the tax on alcohol in the case of light wines imported in bottle would be enormously large as compared with the taxation of alcohol in the form of spirits.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I forgot to add that, as part of my proposal, I shall have to move a resolution to the effect that the same 1s. surtax will be imposed on spirits imported in bottle.

*MR. COURTNEY said he should be very glad to accept the Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposal that the Committee should agree to the Amendment. They would however, be at liberty to withhold their approval of the subsequent Amendment with regard to the surtax.

Sir M. Hicks-Beach.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I really cannot carry the matter further. If the right hon. Gentleman does not accept my suggestion, I shall not be inclined to go on with it.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had shown great generosity, and to a certain extent had met the arguments of the hon. Member for Bodmin. It might be that his experience of spirits was less than that of most hon. Members, but he was convinced, speaking generally, it was only the costly wines and spirits that came in bottle, the less costly coming in wood. This extra bottle tax would in effect amount to an *ad valorem* duty. He recommended the right hon. Gentleman to jump at the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and close with it at once.

MR. COURTNEY observed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was the master of the situation, and, if the right honourable Gentleman was not prepared to make any further concession, he would accept his proposal.

Question put and agreed to.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) moved an Amendment to provide that on wine (other than still wines in bottles) not exceeding 26 degrees of proof spirit the duty should only be 1s. a gallon. He assured the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the differentiation he proposed was not based upon the economic fallacies which were urged with regard to the former Amendment by the Member for Sheffield. The proposal which he had the honour to introduce did not depend upon any idea of differentiation in regard to the colonies or any other country, but was based upon the unjust incidence of the proposed wine duties. He would venture to call the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the fact that the proposed wine duties fall very unjustly and disproportionately upon the lower classes of wine. They had been told that, as a matter of fact, although the duty should be 1d. per bottle, the actual addition to the consumer was 2d. What would be the consequence of that? That the consumers of light claret, for instance, would be paying double the amount of the duty that was proposed to be raised—in other words, they would be paying £300,000 towards the £150,000

that the Government were going to raise. The consumers were the people whom the House ought to consider with great care. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had used an axiom which was not an axiom. He said that wine was an article of luxury. ("No.") He was subject to correction, but that was the general remark he understood him to make. He ventured to say that the cheaper wines had become an article of necessity—at any rate, people had acquired the habit of drinking them. He had, and he was also prepared to say that he and everybody else was the better for doing so. These wines were drunk by a class who were already more than fairly taxed. There were two classes in this country who were very well protected: the one was the rich class, and the other the working class, which was now organised; but between the upper and nether millstone was the community which the House did not seem to be so careful in protecting and doing justice to, and that was the struggling middle class, the poor professional class. That was the class that mostly consumed the wines in question. The proportionate increase on the cheaper wine was eight times as much as it was upon the wine consumed by the richer classes, and they put that tax upon a people who were the least able to pay and who were most deserving of the tender consideration of the Committee. Again he submitted that the interposition of the Committee was injurious to the trade generally. He did not consider the question of the susceptibilities of France or of the colonies—he did not think that was a consideration worth entertaining. If we diminished the consumption of articles sent to us by another country, some of his friends on the opposite side of the House would rejoice. The hon. Member for Sheffield seemed to think it a most desirable thing to prevent anybody from sending us anything. Personally, he rejoiced that people should send him anything. The Committee should never lose sight of the fact that while it was a good thing for foreigners to take our goods, it was at least half a good thing for us to take theirs. For every cask of wine we took from France or any other country they took goods from us, and he therefore objected to the interests of trade to the nonsensical idea that we held the key of the situation by the imposition of the duty. The last ground upon which he objected to the increased

duty was that it was a retrograde step in the matter of temperance. The word temperance had been very much mistaken. Temperance did not mean abstinence, but the moderate use of that which was good. What was the object of Mr. Gladstone's great radical change in the reduction of the wine duties? It was to encourage amongst our people the use of wholesome alcoholised drinks. He thought the use of alcoholised drinks was in some degree a good thing. At any rate he found it so himself, and he did not wish to see any abstinence from a reasonable use of it amongst other people. But the important thing was that the use of alcoholised drink in beer and spirits would be encouraged by the disuse of the light wines. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he did not believe the imposition of the duty would discourage the importation of light wines. At the time Mr. Gladstone effected his great reduction of the wine duties the import trade from France had fallen away to 600,000 gallons; and the result of that great statesman's fiscal policy was that the import had now gone up to 9,000,000 gallons. It was, therefore, perfectly obvious that the proposed change would discourage the use of light wines, which so many people in the country found extremely healthy and pleasant. It was hard for him to discuss the question with an ascetic who neither smoked nor drank, but he should like the right hon. Gentleman to go to some of the large Lancashire towns and see the extent to which the shilling claret was consumed by what he (Mr. Harwood) considered the most reputable class of the community—a class that could not drink beer, that did not want to drink spirits, and yet wanted to drink something. They were discouraging the consumption of light wines to a very serious degree, and consequently encouraging the consumption of a heavier drink. He would put before the right honourable Gentleman considerations which he thought should have weight with one whose humour they so often admired. In the 15th and 16th centuries the chief drink of this country was the light wine of France and Spain, and they heard that Jack Cade wished the fountains to flow, not with beer, as he would have done nowadays, but with claret. They knew also what bright and winsome associations were connected with the

nance of sack. He would suggest to the right honourable Gentleman, for the sake of the wit and humour of his country, which was said to be rather ponderous, that it was a wrong step to encourage the consumption of beer at the expense of light wines. He moved his Amendment for three reasons—first, because these duties would bear unjustly upon a particular class of wine; secondly, because this particular class of wine was chiefly consumed by those who most had a claim on the consideration of the House; and, thirdly, because the effect of this policy would be to discourage the consumption of light wines, and to encourage the consumption of heavier drinks.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 5, after 'wine (other than still, in bottle), to insert 'not exceeding 26 degrees of proof spirit, the gallon, £0 1s. 0d.'"
—*Mr. Harwood.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The honourable Member has made a proposal which I do not discuss from the point of revenue, because for other reasons it will be impossible for me to accept it. He has proposed that there shall be a fresh scale, the 1s. duty continuing on wines not exceeding 26 degrees of proof spirit and a 1s. 6d. duty being applied between 26 and 30 degrees. The right honourable Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, I think in 1886, raised the scale of the lowest duty from 26 to 30 degrees with the object of making a certain arrangement to our commercial advantage with Spain by that concession. The result was that a large quantity of Spanish wine between 26 and 30 degrees was introduced into this country at the lowest rate of wine duty, I need not say very greatly to the advantage of Spain in her competition with French wines. In return for that concession Spain placed us in her minimum commercial tariff instead of, as she might have done, in her maximum tariff. Therefore, I do not think that, as that state of things still continues, we can in fairness retract that concession and place Spanish wines, because that is what it amounts to, between 26 and 30 degrees on a higher scale of duty than those below. The great bulk,

Mr. Harwood.

in fact nearly the whole, of the wine used in this country between 26 and 30 degrees comes from Spain; but I have a proposal to make to the Committee which perhaps may solve this question; at least I hope it will, because if my concessions do not shorten debate, I am afraid they will fail in their object. I have been impressed by what has been said in the course of this Debate and on other occasions as to the effect of the proposed increase of duty upon the lightest grade of wine. Sixpence all round is no doubt comparatively a larger increase on the lighter wines than on the stronger wines. I was going to say cheaper wines, but it is a delusion to suppose that lightness and cheapness are synonymous terms in the case of wine. A good many of the lightest wines are the most expensive, as many Members, who, like the honourable Member opposite, are fond of wine, know very well. I have also been impressed by what has been said by the Agents-General of the Australian colonies, and by what has been said this evening with regard to Australian wines. I was unable to assent, for the reasons I have given to the Committee, to the proposal of my honourable friend to introduce the principle of differential duties into our fiscal system; but, as a matter of fact, nearly all the wines which come from Australia are within the thirty degrees limit, and therefore what I am about to propose is this. Though, I admit, at some little risk with regard to my financial calculations, I propose, instead of asking the Committee for an additional 6d. on the lower scale wines, to ask them only for an additional 3d. That I hope will show that I am anxious to meet the objections that have been raised on both sides of the House to the utmost of my power. I may say that I shall recoup myself to some extent for this concession, as well as for the concession I have made to my right honourable friend the Member for Bodmin, by the 1s. surtax on spirits in bottle; but still there will be, no doubt, a deficiency in the yield I estimated from the wine duties. However, I am of a hopeful temperament. The Revenue looks well, and, on the whole, I think I am justified in making the concession I now propose; but I must end as I began, by saying that I hope the concession will shorten debate.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said the right honourable Gentleman had defended his

scale as against that of the honourable Member for Bolton, on the ground that the latter would be unfair to Spain. But it should be remembered that in Spain, for years, we were at a disadvantage, and did not enjoy the most favoured nation treatment for our goods. On the contrary, we were subjected to absolute maltreatment. We altered our scale to meet the views of Spain. At the same time, he was glad that the limit was raised from 26 degrees to 30 degrees, because the duty was, undoubtedly, too heavy upon that class of wines. What ought to have been done whenever the wine duties were going to be increased was to have made more steps in the scale; instead of having two scales, the duties ought to have been made to correspond by more steps to something like the alcoholic strength of the wine. They could not treat the lighter wines as if they were merely the cheaper wines, and therefore successive Chancellors of the Exchequer had always rejected the view that it was possible to introduce anything like *ad valorem* treatment. They had always had in view that there should be some approximation of the scale to alcoholic strength, but the new duties were a conspicuous example of departure from that principle. Now his honourable friend proposed to take 26 degrees as his limit. All the French and Australian wines came in below the scale of 26 degrees, the Spanish wines came in between 26 and 30 degrees, and the Portuguese wines came in above 30 degrees. The difference was very great indeed. The vast bulk of the French wines came in at 16, 17, and 18 degrees (mostly at 17 degrees), the Australian wines at 24 degrees, the Spanish wines at 27, 28, and 29 degrees (principally at 27 and 28), and the Portuguese wines came in at 34, 35, 36, and 37 degrees. By the one-step scale a most extraordinary advantage was given to Spain as compared with France on the one hand, and Portugal on the other. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was about to increase the apparent injustice from the point of view of France, inasmuch as he proposed to recoup himself for a certain loss of revenue by his new shilling duty upon brandy which came in in bottle. That tax would fall almost exclusively upon France—on the Charente district particularly. If it were the case that the present scale of wine duties was unjust to France, the

injustice would be enormously increased by the additional tax of 1s. upon brandy, which came in from the same districts as the wine. The right honourable Gentleman refused to accept the Amendment of the honourable Member for Bolton, on the ground of unfairness to Spain. Spain obtained her present position by maltreating our trade, and our trade with Spain was small, while our trade with France was enormous. If, consequently, they were to oppose the Amendment on the ground of its unfairness to Spain, he thought they were entitled to point out the much greater unfairness which would be inflicted upon French trade. It had often been suggested that they should have a new step in the scale at eighteen degrees, but hitherto that had not been carried into effect. An enormous amount of the trade of Lancashire went into France at the present moment, and the course which was being pursued was certainly not calculated to secure for it the most favoured nation treatment, which it received in that country. He viewed these proposals with great misgivings. He could not but believe that they must have a most detrimental effect on our commercial position. He thought we were putting a weapon in the hands of the French protectionists in their contest against the trade of this country. If the wine duties were to be revised there was an overwhelming case, not for lowering them, but for bringing them into closer proportion to alcoholic strength by having six or eight instead of only two steps, which was the only fair basis on which they could be placed.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The right honourable Baronet entirely forgets that although I propose to increase the duty on liquor from France by the imposition of one shilling duty on bottled spirits, I at the same time make a great concession to France by reducing the increase on the lower grade wines from sixpence to threepence. I cannot, therefore, admit that I am treating France unfairly.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: As compared with Spain, I said.

*SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right honourable Gentleman has made a double appeal to the Committee. In the first place he asked that the Debate should not be unduly

prolonged, and in the second that the compromise offered should be accepted. But the right honourable Gentleman will bear in mind, of course, that most of us approach this question from the point of view of those who think it would have been desirable not to have meddled with the wine duties at all. We are not convinced there was not some other way open to him for raising the money without disturbing this somewhat delicate part of our revenue. The main purpose we have before us is to save as much as possible the light wines, the consumption of which deserves encouragement. My honourable friend the Member for Bolton made a very interesting speech on the subject, and I agree with him in what he said, except in the words in which he sought to read a lesson to my own fellow-countrymen as to the form in which they should take such refreshment as they required in liquid shape. He laboured under the delusion that it is not the Scotch practice to drink wine, saying that the Scotch genius, brilliant as it may be, would be still more extraordinary if cultivated under the influence of claret. Why, claret has been the special drink of Scotland for many years! The drink of the lower classes—if I may use that expression—was in the main beer—of a sort—"twopenny," as an honourable friend behind me suggests. The poems of Robert Burns refer to the principal liquor consumed—and he had considerable experience of it—not as whisky, but ale. The other classes mainly drank claret; and I am astonished that one so well read as my honourable friend does not remember the well-known lines written after the Methuen Treaty, by which the duty on port was lowered:—

"Firm and erect the Caledonian stood;
Prime was his mutton, and his claret good.
'Let him drink port,' the southron statesman
cried;
He drank the poison, and his spirit died."

The glamour of these lines might have prevented my honourable friend from going so far astray in his criticism of the spirit of my country. I was prepared to support the Amendment of my honourable friend, and should have liked it still better if the right honourable Gentleman could have been induced to go further and extend the immunity from any increase of taxation to the wines above 30 degrees. I would, however, recommend my honourable friend to accept the

compromise of a threepenny duty up to the standard of 30 degrees. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is a somewhat peremptory person when dealing with these matters. He has already reduced the right honourable Member for Bodmin to a submissive frame of mind, in which he has seldom been before. As nothing can be gained by resistance, it is better to put a good face upon it and accept thankfully and cheerfully the compromise the Chancellor of the Exchequer has offered.

MR. LAMBERT said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been good enough to make a concession which would undoubtedly meet the difficulty in regard to the greater part of the colonial wine imported into this country, but could he not allow wine under 30 degrees of proof to come in at the same rate as at present, because this small tax was hardly worth the considerable derangement of trade which would result. The persons with between £500 and £700, whose income-tax he reduced last year, were precisely the class who would drink these cheap wines, and therefore he was practically putting on this year what he took off last year.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I have carefully investigated this matter, and I have gone to the utmost limit I possibly can.

MR. HARWOOD: I beg to ask leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Clause 3:—

*MR. HENDERSON (Staffordshire, W.) said he drew a distinction between shares which were the definite property of the owners in whose name they were registered, and share warrants transferable by endorsement, and which, passing from hand to hand, were ultimately registered in the name of the ultimate owner. The duty which would be equitable in the one case would not be so in the other. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech stated, in regard to shares, that, once stamped, they would be perfectly free from any future stamps during their lifetime, and it would be perfectly equitable to require the stamp as proposed by the Bill on shares to bearer but quite

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

inequitable as regarded those shares which were transferred from one person to another, and which, as a matter of fact, had no distinctive number attached to them. It would be impossible to transfer the stamp from one share to another, and he suggested that the two classes of shares should be separated altogether. The first-mentioned class of shares might fairly be left under the category upon which a 5s. per cent. duty was proposed to be levied, but with regard to the other class of shares that, although passing from hand to hand, were capable of being registered, and indeed must be ultimately registered, these were held in large numbers throughout the country, and for them there was an extremely free market, hundreds of thousands of these shares passing at differences sometimes of a sixteenth per cent. To put upon these shares the heavy charge of 5s. per cent. would have the effect of driving this business from the City of London to markets at Brussels, Amsterdam, Antwerp, and other places where no duty existed, and the large business which was done in these shares in this country would be destroyed. If it was found possible to transfer the stamp from one share to another, and the proposed duty was insisted on, the business would, in his opinion, still leave London altogether. It would hardly be fair to exempt these shares from all duty now that new duties were being imposed, and from inquiries he had made he was led to the conclusion that 1s. per cent. could be borne without fear of evasion by underhand means. The suggestion he made, therefore, was that the stamp should be at the rate of 1s. per cent. on these transferable securities instead of 5s., as proposed in the Bill. If this were done he believed it would be possible to make it a recurrent stamp producing as much to the Exchequer as the original proposal. For the purpose of carrying out his proposal he moved the first of a series of Amendments.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 31, at end, to insert, 'And on every share warrant or stock certificate to bearer, by means of which any share or stock of any company or body of persons formed or established out of the United Kingdom is, after the first day of August One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, assigned, transferred, or in any manner negotiated in the United Kingdom.'"
—(Mr. Henderson.)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: This is a very technical matter, and we are all indebted to the clear and lucid way in which the proposal of the honourable Gentleman has been placed before the Committee. When I made my proposal on introducing the Budget I thought I had provided in two ways for the difficulty alluded to, and that in the stamp of 5s. per cent. I had taken a figure not so high as to drive away business from the Stock Exchange, and that in the third sub-section I had made a concession to this class of instruments. Since then I have been in communication with the committee of the Stock Exchange and other gentlemen of high authority in relation to the subject, and I think that on the whole I should do well to accept the proposal of my honourable friend. It was a matter on which, of course, there might be differences of opinion, but it has never been my intention to do anything that would drive away business, because, of course, the result of that would be that I should receive no revenue. I think it very possible that my honourable friend is justified in his assumption that the revenue received from the smaller tax he proposed would ultimately be as large as that which I myself have proposed. There was one point in regard to which I think it will be necessary to make an alteration if I accept the proposal. I fixed the stamp at 5s. on £100 in order to provide for the particular class of security to which the honourable Member has alluded; but for that I should have put the stamp at the same rate as was now applied to English securities of the same kind—namely, 10s. The first sub-section of the clause referred to—

"every marketable security made or issued by or on behalf of any foreign State or Government, or foreign or colonial municipal body, corporation, or company, being a security transferable by delivery,"

and I think that, as regards foreign bonds and other securities included in that sub-section, they should pay the 10s. I shall propose a resolution enabling me to make that alteration at a subsequent date, but at present I am willing to accept the Amendment of my honourable friend.

Question put and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

Clause 6 :—

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthen, W.) moved an Amendment to provide that in the case of companies reconstructing for the purpose of raising additional capital the *ad valorem* stamp duty should be *pro rata* on the new capital to be brought in. In the case of such companies he thought 2s., and not 5s., *ad valorem* stamp duty should be charged, as the shareholders in a reconstructed company would have to pay this *ad valorem* stamp duty twice over. Under such circumstances it would be impossible for such a company as he had in his mind to seek fresh capital. It appeared to him that in a Bill of this kind the duty was unduly excessive, and therefore he hoped his Amendment would be accepted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 15, at end, to add, 'Save in the case of companies reconstructing for the purpose of raising additional capital, in which case the *ad valorem* stamp duty shall be *pro rata* on the new capital to be brought in.'"—(Mr. Lloyd Morgan.)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there added."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH said the Amendment would introduce an alteration in the present law. He did not see why a company should have more favourable terms for reconstruction than on the original promotion. He had very good authority for saying that in many cases where companies went through the process of reconstruction the object was to water capital as much as anything else. He thought if there was an occasion when a company ought not to be favoured it was on such an occasion as that. He was unable to accept the Amendment.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 8 :—

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) moved to omit "five pounds," and to insert "one hundred pounds." He trusted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would accept the Amendment which he now proposed with regard to letters of allotment. He suggested by it that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should fix one hundred pounds as the amount at which the higher rate should be paid. As the Bill at present

stood, he thought it would press very hard on the small investor. He pointed out that where £1000 of stock was allotted in amounts of five pounds' worth of stock, the duty would be £5, but where the whole was allotted at once it would only be sixpence.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 11, to leave out the words 'five pounds,' and insert the words 'one hundred pounds.'"—(Mr. Lough.)

Question proposed—

"That the words 'five pounds' stand part of the Clause."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH said that as the letter of allotment would be like any other contract, it would bear a sixpenny stamp. The honourable Gentleman complained that this clause would press heavily on the small investors, but he pointed out that the duty would not have to be paid by the people who applied for allotments but by the companies who sent out the letters of allotment, who would have to stamp them before they sent them out. This increased duty would not deter companies from issuing allotments to small shareholders. They were only too glad to get small shareholders of this kind, because they were likely to be permanent holders of shares and did not take them up for the purpose of selling them to somebody else. He did not see his way to accept the Amendment.

MR. LOUGH hoped that some better reason for not accepting the Amendment would be given than that the stamp would have to be paid by the company allotting the shares. The effect of this would be that the companies would not allot to small holders but only in large blocks. He hoped the matter would be reconsidered and that some concession would be made. Perhaps the right honourable Gentleman would place the limit at £50.

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) did not agree that because the companies had to pay the stamp they would not allot to the small shareholders. They were the people whom companies were most anxious to secure. The people who applied for large amounts did so in order to sell them again. It would not be to the advantage of a company, in order to save a few sixpences, to allot

shares to people who would put their shares on the market and bring the premium down. Therefore, the small investor would not suffer in any way.

*MR. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston) did not think that that argument would apply, because an allotment of £5 was so exceedingly small that no one would dream of allotting so small an amount. If the amount were fixed at £50 he thought it would be fair, but £20 or £25 would not be unreasonable. In its present form it was a sort of poll tax, and in his opinion it was ridiculous to put

the same stamp to £5 as was put to £1,000 allotment.

MR. BEGG (Glasgow, St. Rollox) said an allotment of £5 was an extremely rare thing and he therefore thought the Amendment was a reasonable one. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would raise the limit to, at least, £50.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 197; Noes, 92. (Division List No. 137.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Fred. Geo. (Hunts)
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Blownagree, Sir M. M.
Blakiston-Houston, John
Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worce)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
Corbett A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward

Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Folkestone, Viscount
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gourley, Sir E. Templeley
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D. (Wend'sbury)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hatch, Ernest Fred. George.
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hill, Sir E. Stock (Bristol)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howell, William Tudor
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Kewick, William
Knowles, Lees

Labouchere, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumbland)
Lecky, Rt. Hon. William Edw. H.
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (L'pool)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir Herbert E.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milner, Sir Frederick George
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monckton, Edward Philip
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants)
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William George
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Charles
Pretynman, Ernest George
Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edinburgh)
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney).
Robinson, Brooke
Russell, T. W. (Tyne)
Rutherford, John
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley

Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley

Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)

Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Daly, James
 Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herb. J.

Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Killop, James
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Pearson, Sir Veetman D.
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)

Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. Jn. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Lough and Mr. Moulton.

Clause 13 :—

MR. HARWOOD moved the omission of the word "permanent," and in doing so said he thought it was a most important Amendment. He did not see why the reduction of the annual charge from 25 millions to 23 millions should be a permanent one. He urged the Committee to defer making any permanent alteration of their standard until they had before them some well-considered and statesmanlike scheme for dealing with the National Debt. He thought the Committee might reasonably agree that the circum-

stances this year were exceptional, having regard to the expenditure on the Army and Navy, and that therefore £2,000,000 might be taken out of the amount set apart for the reduction of the Debt this year. But it should not be made a permanent charge. There was a great difference in a change to meet special circumstances and making a permanent alteration. The Chancellor of the Exchequer always had the power to come to the House with a proposal to take the money if circumstances rendered it necessary, but it was a serious thing, in his opinion,

to permanently reduce the Sinking Fund by such an amount. £25,000,000 was not by any means an excessive amount to set aside for the payment of debt in these days of superabundant prosperity.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 26, to leave out the word 'permanent.'"—(*Mr. Harwood.*)

Question proposed—

"That the word 'permanent' stand part of the clause."

MR. LOUGH thought there should be a word of reply from the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this point. He was not able to support the Amendment, for any of the reasons given by his honourable friend, but at the same time it was an excellent Amendment which he pressed on the Committee. He supported it because the structure of the clause would be greatly improved if the word "permanent" was left out. Nothing was permanent with regard to the National Debt when a Conservative Government was in power. Why, then, put in the adjective, which was the evidence of their shame?

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: There is one thing permanent when a Conservative Government is in office, and that is the perpetual interference of the honourable Member in debate. I hope the honourable Member who has moved the Amendment will excuse me if I decline to enter into the arguments on the main question. We

have debated them at considerable length on a previous occasion, and the House has arrived at a decision on the subject. I would venture to point out that the honourable Member's Amendment is really an absurd one. He proposes that the Debt charge of £25,000,000 should be reduced for this year only to £23,000,000. But, of course, when I, on behalf of the Government, proposed that the Debt charge should be permanently reduced to £23,000,000 I made arrangements in the subsequent clause for the terminable annuities to be dealt with on that reduced basis. But the honourable Member makes no arrangement whatever for the terminable annuities under his Amendment, and we should still have to pay capital and interest on the terminable annuities on the old basis of expenditure of £25,000,000 a year, and yet only have £23,000,000 to do it with. It is really impossible to carry out the Amendment, which I hope the honourable Member will not press to a Division.

MR. MOULTON said it was absurd for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to contend that there would be any difficulty in carrying out the proposal embodied in the Amendment.

Question put.

The Committee divided; Ayes, 169; Noes, 85. (Division List No. 138).

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r.)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George

Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-

Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George
(Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)

Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Compton, Lord Alywyne
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
 Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Cox, Iwrin Edward B. (Harrow Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Folkestone, Viscount
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, John Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.)

Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn.
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool.)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'nsea
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maciver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McKillop, James
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Middlesmore, John Throgmort.
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Monkton, Edward Philip
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
 Percy, Earl

Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Richard
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thompson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrona)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sidelbottom, William (Derby-sh.
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand.
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allison, Robert Andrew
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Hy.
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Daly, James

Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.

Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 MacAleese, Daniel
 McArthur, William (Cornwall)
 McGhee, Richard
 McLeod, John
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)

Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Price, Robert John
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Reekitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbghsh.)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)

Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stephenson, Francis M.
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)

Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woods, Samuel
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Harwood and Mr.
 Hedderwick.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract) said he proposed to divide the Committee on this clause as a protest against what he conceived to be the unwise policy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in this matter. In 1887 and 1889 the First Lord of the Admiralty, who was then Chancellor of the Exchequer, tampered with the Sinking Fund twice, and he regarded it as more than a coincidence that both those raids on the Fund were made in years of lavish expenditure. The plea against paying off so much debt was a mere excuse to cover the nakedness of the Treasury. He appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reconsider his course, which was fraught with so much danger to our national prosperity. He maintained that we could not afford to play and tamper with the credit of the country. How long would people believe in our national prosperity if we were not able to pay our debts? We were encroaching upon our reserve funds, and when we did that we had passed the safe margin, and the time had arrived to cry "stop." The Chancellor of the Exchequer had protested against lavish expenditure again and again, but had allowed himself to be over-riden, and was now showing a certain amount of weakness in hesitating to put the expenditure on the right shoulders. Why not put an extra penny on the Income Tax, which would raise the necessary two millions of money? The upper and middle classes who had called for this lavish expenditure should not only call the tune but pay the piper.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON (Devonport) desired to enter his protest against what he believed to be the most dangerous proposal with regard to the finances of this country which had been made since 1869. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Government had not apparently taken into account the fact that, although our income had been going up by leaps and bounds on the same taxation during the last four years, yet our expenditure had also been going up by leaps and bounds until we had reached the point when the estimated expenditure was higher than the estimated income. He saw no possibility of our expenditure stopping as years went on, but there was great likelihood of our income decreasing. The last four years had no doubt been a period of unexampled prosperity, and it seemed to him that the true finance would be to make provision for the lean years which were bound to come during the fat years that were passing. Our expenditure, both in home affairs and in defence of the Empire, was likely to grow rather than diminish, and therefore it seemed peculiarly important to devote all the money that could be spared in paying off the debt contracted in past years. Let it not be said that the necessity to take two millions from the Sinking Fund was due to the expenditure on the Army and Navy. That was almost exactly the sum the Government had squandered on their permanent election agents in every parish—namely, the squires and the parsons.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I have had more than one opportunity of entering my protest, and giving my reasons against the proposal contained in this clause, and I will not detain the Committee by attempting to repeat those arguments. I will only express my entire concurrence with the sentiments contained in the two very able speeches made by my honourable friends behind me. I do desire that we should regard this proposal as one which is a serious blow at the resources of our country at home, and which is calculated to greatly diminish the estimation of its strength abroad. I believe that in future years the evil of this proposal will be much more apparent than it is to-day.

On this clause we have the legitimate opportunity of entering, and recording on the Journals of this House, the protest which we on this side of the House have to make against what I believe to be an entirely vicious and evil system of finance. I will not, as I have said, delay the Committee by repeating the arguments which I have formerly used against this proposal, but I shall certainly take the opportunity of recording my vote against it.

Question put—

“That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill.”

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 154 : Noes, 77. (Division List No. 139.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith- (Hunts)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worce)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dighy, John K. D. Wingfield-
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-

Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Folkestone, Viscount
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. (St George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D. (Wendlesbury)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Henderson, Alexander
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howell, William Tudor
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Kewick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)

Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
McKillop, James
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Milner, Sir Frederick George
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William George
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretymann, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlepool)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard

Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lanes.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)

Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox'd. Univ.)
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, Sir R. E. (I. Wight)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)

Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks. E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr.
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Hy.
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Bowles, T. Gilson (Lynn Regis)
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Daly, James
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hazell, Walter

Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McGhee, Richard
 McLeod, John
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Price, Robert John

Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Samuel J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Fredk. W. (Norfolk)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It will be necessary, at the commencement of business on Friday, to move the Suspension of the Standing Orders to allow proceedings in Committee of Ways and Means to be continued or entered upon after midnight, though opposed. Not that I anticipate that the motion will have operative effect. I hope that the business will be disposed of before midnight.

In reply to a question by Mr. Asquith,

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said: The only other important business will be the Second Reading of the Colonial Loans Fund Bill. It is rather important on public grounds that this Bill should not be very long delayed. The London

Government Bill will be deferred in any case till Monday next. I suppose there will be no objection to my putting down the Report of Supply after the Colonial Loans Fund Bill.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) BILL
[Lords].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CLAUSE 1.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan, Mid) objected to the Bill on the ground that it would tend to weaken the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal was at present presided over by three judges, and without any good reason the Government were proposing to make it possible for two judges to act instead of three. There was already a provision in the Judicature Act which enabled the Lord Chancellor, upon an emergency, to send one of the most eminent judges of the Queen's Bench or the Chancery Division to the Court of Appeal. This provision would cover any emergency. The Bill was in his opinion a very mischievous one, and one for which no case had been made out.

Dr. CLARK (Caithness) said it was imagined that Conservative Governments always conserved, but the present Unionist Government was of a most revolutionary character. He moved to report Progress.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

SOLICITORS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; an Amendment made ; Bill read the third time, and passed, with an Amendment.

BILL INTRODUCED.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Bill to amend the law relating to factories and workshops, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Tennant, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. John Burns, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Sydney Buxton, Mr. Haldane, Mr. McKenna, and Mr. Lionel Holland.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS BILL.

"To amend the law relating to factories and workshops," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 1st June, and to be printed. (Bill 191.)

House adjourned at half after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 12th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

JONES'S DIVORCE BILL. [Lords.]

A witness ordered to attend.

Petition of Charlotte Jane Jones, of St. Helen's, Dalkey, in the County of Dublin, that substituted service of a copy of the Bill be made upon Robert Colvill Jones and Ffolliot Jones, cousins of Robert Colvill Jones, the husband of the said Charlotte Jane Jones; and that the depositions of A. M. Harry, Jagesvari alias Bigili, and Anupa, taken on commission in India in pursuance of Orders of the Queen's Bench Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland dated the 16th of January, 1889, and the 29th of March, 1899, be received in evidence on the Second Reading of the Bill, or that in the alternative the examination of the said A. M. Harry, Jagesvari alias Bigili, and Anupa, touching the allegations mentioned in the petition, be taken in India, and that a proper warrant or warrants be issued for that purpose; considered (according to order): Counsel called in: A Witness examined: Bill to be read 2^d on Tuesday next: The usual orders made: Ordered, that service of a copy of the Bill, and of the Order for the Second Reading thereof, upon the said Robert Colvill Jones and Ffolliot Jones, be deemed as good service of the said Bill and Order as if the same had been personally served upon the said Robert Colville Jones, the husband of the said Charlotte Jane Jones: Ordered, that the said depositions of A. M. Harry, Jagesvari alias Bigili, and Anupa, be received in evidence on the Second Reading of the Bill.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

TAFF VALE RAILWAY.

LISBURN TOWN COMMISSIONERS.

SCUNTHORPE URBAN DISTRICT GAS AND WATER.

VOL. LXXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with—

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON). [Lords.]

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LIVERPOOL). [Lords.]

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL. [Lords.]

The Queen's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (CARDIFF) BILL. [Lords.]

Reported with Amendments.

NUNEATON AND CHILVERS COTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL WATER BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN RAILWAY BILL.

Reported without Amendment.

WOODHOUSE AND CONISBROUGH RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL.

Reported with an Amendment.

PORT TALBOT RAILWAY AND DOCKS BILL. [Lords.]

Reported with Amendments.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN BANKS GUARANTEE FUND BILL. [Lords.]

Committee to meet on Monday next.

BRIGHTON MARINE PALACE AND PIER BILL. [Lords.]

Committee to meet on Monday next.

TENTERDEN RAILWAY BILL.

Committee to meet on Monday next.

FURNESS RAILWAY BILL. [Lords.]

Committee to meet on Monday next.

STRETFORD GAS BILL. [Lords.]

Committee to meet on Monday next.

BRIGG URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL.

Committee to meet on Monday next.

GREAT NORTHERN AND STRAND RAILWAY BILL.

Read 2^d, and committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

P

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY (PENSIONS) BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed.

WISHAW WATER BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

HAMPSTEAD CHURCH (EMMANUEL, WEST END) BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

GAINSBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (GAS) BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

GREAT YARMOUTH WATER BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

LEIGH-ON-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, Amendments made, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

DUNDEE GAS, TRAMWAYS, AND EXTENSION BILL. [Lords.] Now DUNDEE GAS, STREET IMPROVEMENTS, AND TRAMWAYS BILL. [Lords.]

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

HORSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL WATER BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

AYR BURGH BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

GAS LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

KENSINGTON AND NOTTING HILL ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

DUBLIN IMPROVEMENT (BULL ALLEY AREA) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

BRISTOL FLOODS PREVENTION BILL. [Lords.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

PERTH WATER, POLICE, AND GAS BILL. [Lords.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with an Amendment: The said amendment considered, and agreed to.

LOUGHBOROUGH CORPORATION BILL. [Lords.]

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

SOUTH ESSEX WATER BILL. [Lords.]

Report from the Select Committee, That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL. [Lords.]

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 6th and 24th of March last discharged; and Bill committed.

ROCHDALE CANAL BILL. [Lords.]

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 2nd of March and Friday last discharged; and Bill committed.

MARYPORT HARBOUR BILL. [Lords.]

The orders made on the 2nd instant

and Tuesday last, appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bill, discharged.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.
[Lords.]

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Ventry be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee in the place of the Lord Wrottesley; read, and agreed to.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL. [Lords.]

To be read 2^a on Monday next.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LIVERPOOL) BILL. [Lords.]

To be read 2^a on Monday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 9) BILL. [Lords.]

Read 2^a (according to order).

PILOTAGE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read 2^a (according to order), and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (HARROW WEALD) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 89.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Southern Division of Scotland, for the year 1898.

TRADE REPORTS.

I. Annual Series:

- No. 2255. Russia (Odessa).
- No. 2256. United States (New York).
- No. 2257. United States (Galveston).
- No. 2251. China (Shashih).

II. Miscellaneous Series:

- No. 503. Commercial education in Italy.

PRISONS (TREATMENT OF DEBTOR PRISONERS UNDER NEW RULES).

Circular, dated 25th April, 1899, addressed to Judges of County Courts, by direction of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, calling attention to the changes made by the rules under Section 6 (3) of the Prison Act, 1898, with regard to the treatment of debtor prisoners.

PRISON ACT, 1898.

Circular, dated 25th April, 1899, addressed to the Chairman of each Bench of Magistrates, calling attention to the Prison Act, 1898, and the rules made under it.

NAVY (HYDROGRAPHER'S REPORT).

Report on Admiralty Surveys, for the year 1898, by the Hydrographer.

TRADE.

Annual Statement of Trade of United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions for 1898, compared with the four preceding years.

SOUTH AMERICA (COMMERCIAL MISSION).

Reports received from Mr. T. Worthington, the Special Commissioner appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into and report upon the conditions and prospects of British trade in certain South American countries. Sixth Report.—Uruguay.

Presented [by command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

INDIA.

I. Estimate of revenue and expenditure of the Government of India, for the year 1898–99, compared with the results of 1897–98.

II. Finance and revenue accounts of the Government of India, for the year 1897–98.

III. Home accounts of the Government of India.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.

Statement of the estimated income and expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for 1899–1900.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 2nd May 1899, declaring that Thomas Benson, chief mate,

Revenue cruiser, "Vigilant," in the service of the Commissioners of Customs, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate through inadvertance on the part of the head of his Department.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

Account of all moneys issued from the Consolidated Fund, of sums borrowed, and of transactions in relation to sums so borrowed, up to 31st March 1899, in pursuance of the Imperial Defence Act, 1888.

NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS (IRELAND) PENSIONS FUND.

Annual accounts of receipts and payments for the period to 31st December, 1898.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

House to be in Committee on Tuesday next.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) ACT AMENDMENT BILL [Lords].

A Bill to amend the Congested Districts (Scotland) Act, 1897, was presented by the Lord Balfour; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 88.)

ANCHORS AND CHAIN CABLES BILL.

To be read 2^a on Monday next: (The Earl of Dudley).

PUBLIC LIBRARIES (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

SOLICITORS BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Committee agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments to be printed. (No. 87.)

ALLOTMENTS (LONDON) BILL [Lords].

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading, read.

EARL CARRINGTON: The Bill which I move shall be read a second time is identically the same as that which I

brought in last year, and which was then thrown out by a majority of 87 to 25. I need hardly detain the House by going into the merits of the Bill again. I need only say that we have 14,000 acres of land which is fit for cultivation in the County of London, and which could be profitably cultivated. Under the present conditions, as we are unable to let anything under an acre, under the Small Holdings Act of 1892, we are at a great disadvantage. We are obliged to let an acre, which is afterwards sub-let, which is a great evil, and prevents us letting the land as we wish to do. Your Lordships are aware that the Land Acts of 1887 and 1890 do not apply to the County of London, and if the House would be good enough to give the power to do so, we could, I think, double the number of our allotments. I do not think that I am asking a great favour on behalf of the County Council when I ask that this power should be given, because I must remind the House that the County Council have been able to carry through the Blackwall Tunnel (without the loss of a single life); have added 1,000 acres to the public parks, re-organised and re-equipped the Fire Brigade, and added to the number of the Brigade 400 men, which is an amount equal to a regiment of Life Guards; have taken over the tramways and reduced the hours, and increased the wages of the men; have cleared the sewage out of the Thames so that fish come 20 miles further up stream than they did before; and are going to make our tunnel at Rotherhithe; and will soon commence the improvement of the great street between Holborn and the Strand. All this has been done at no great expense to the ratepayers, because the rate has been reduced by one halfpenny this year. I submit, therefore, to the House, that the County Council are not asking for a duty to be imposed upon them which they cannot perform, and I ask this House to allow us to let to a solvent and industrious artisan one-tenth of an acre of land instead of restricting us to letting not less than one acre. I beg to move the Second Reading of this Bill.

Moved—

"That the Bill be now read 2^a."

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: I do not desire to interpose between the House and

the noble Lord who represents the Local Government Board, but as I am Chairman of the Allotments Committee of the County Council, I might say I was rather surprised to hear the noble Earl hang on to this measure an enumeration of all the great deeds which the County Council have done, which have nothing to do with this Bill. The object which the noble Earl has in view is a very simple one. The County Council have no power to let less than one acre, and if they wish to let allotments of under one acre they are obliged to avail themselves of the services of a middleman. In order to achieve that end, the noble Earl brings in a Bill of five pages and sixteen clauses, and it seems to me it would have been extremely easy for the noble Earl simply to ask the House to give power to the London County Council to allot less than one acre of land. I think it is rather straining the patience of this House to bring in this Bill in order to derive such a small gain. I think the noble Earl could hardly expect to be able to pass such a long and elaborate Bill for such a simple purpose.

***LORD HARRIS:** The noble Earl has deduced no further arguments on this occasion than he did last year when he attempted to pass a similar Bill. I am able to adduce a further strong argument in favour of our rejecting the Bill, but before I do so I may remind the House of the argument I put before it last year. It is entirely erroneous to suppose that the allotments are in the neighbourhood of the urban part of London. The 14,000 acres are, I imagine, in the outskirts of the County Council area, and in these outskirts it is quite possible and easy, if there is land available, and if the local authorities find there is a demand and they are determined to meet it, to arrange it. Requests have been received from Greenwich and Charlton that the powers of parish councils shall be given to them for the purposes of opening up land for allotment. The only vestries that have applied have been given those powers; and, as far as we know, in the only parishes where allotments are required they are granted under this process. It is a perfectly simple process, and there is no necessity for bringing in such a body as the County Council to deal with the matter. It is advantageous in another way. If the County Council are given these powers the costs will be

upon the ratepayers of London who have no interest in the matter whatever, instead of the ratepayers of the parishes that are concerned. Then I beg to remind this House that the powers which the noble Earl now asks for have been given to no county council of England; and yet, though the London County Council is distinct and different in many ways from the other county councils of the country, the noble Earl asks you to give a power to them which you have refused to every other county council in England. The last argument which I would venture to point out to your Lordships against your approving this measure is that the London Government Bill is now before Parliament, and under that Bill new areas are being created and new authorities are being created for their government, and it might be possible, if Parliament pleased, to confer on any of these authorities the powers suggested. If the County Council is in earnest in this matter it is quite possible for them to procure that these powers shall vest in the new local authorities by getting an Amendment proposed to that effect to the Bill now occupying attention in another place.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I fully expected that the noble Lord would oppose this measure. That opposition arises out of the incredible jealousy which exists against the County Council of London on the part of the Government. Is it, or is it not, desirable for London that there should be these facilities for getting these allotments? It could do no harm and it certainly might do some good. The noble Lord has told us that any parishes could apply to the Local Government Board for these powers, but as a matter of fact none have ever done so. The whole question is, whether or not we think it is desirable that there should be a convenient and specified mode of giving these allotments where they would be welcome. So far as I can see the noble Lord has given us no arguments of any kind or description against the Bill, and I think the opposition is the most uncalled-for and the most mischievous.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: The noble Earl has urged as a reason for objecting to this Bill that it is long and complicated and that the object which is sought to be achieved by it could be effected by

a short Bill. On that ground I can claim the noble Earl as a supporter of this Bill, and I have every right to do so, because he was the Chairman of the Allotments Committee of the County Council and as Chairman of that Committee he has given his assent to this very Bill. The Bill was recommended to the Council by a Committee of which the noble Earl was Chairman.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW : No, that was before I was Chairman.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : So far as I understand he has made no protest whatever against the Bill, and I contend that he is bound and wrapped up in the Bill that is now before us. Lord Harris has said that he cannot consent to this Bill because the powers it proposes to give to the London County Council are given to no others.

LORD HARRIS : I said the powers had been given to no other county council in England and therefore should not be given to the London County Council.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : That is true, but other County Councils have powers which the London County Council has not. They have a power over the parishes which enables them, if the parish fails, to deal with the matter—to step over them and deal with it themselves. Should not the same power be given to the London County Council? If these new bodies which are going to be created are not willing to deal with this question of allotments, is it not fair that the London County Council should step in, as the other County Councils step in, and deal with the matter? Another argument I would venture to use as to why it is desirable to give these powers to the London County Council is, that there are constantly large plots of land falling into the hands of county councils which have to be dealt with from time to time. It seems to me that one of the best uses to which these pieces of land could be put would be to let them out in allotments. I shall certainly vote for the Second Reading of this Bill.

On Question, resolved in the negative:—Contents, 16 ; Not-contents, 58.

Lord Tweedmouth.

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Chesterfield, E. [Teller]	Davey, L.
Dundonald, E.	Hawkesbury, L.
Kimberley, E.	Herries, L.
Spencer, E.	Leigh, L.
	Reay, L.
Hampden, V.	Ribblesdale, L.
	Stuart of Castle Stuart,
Boyle, L. (E. Cork and Orrery)	L. (E. Moray)
	Tweedmouth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (Lord Chancellor)	Aldenharn, L.
Devonshire, D. (Lord President)	Balfour, L.
Cross, V. (Lord Privy Seal)	Belper, L.
	Brougham and Vaux, L.
Marlborough, D.	Calthorpe, L.
Northumberland, D.	Churchill, L. [Teller]
	Cranworth, L.
Lansdowne, M.	Crawshaw, L.
Salisbury, M.	Digby, L.
	Farquhar, L.
Pembroke and Montgomery, E. Lord Steward)	Fermanagh, L. (E. Erne)
Bradford, E.	Gage, L. (V. Gage)
Brownlow, E.	Harris, L.
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Dartmouth, E.	Kenry, L. (E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl)
Dartrey, E.	Ker, L. (M. Lothian)
de Montalt, E.	Lawrence, L.
Ducie, E.	Manners of Haddon, L. (M. Granby)
Mansfield, E.	Mount Stephen, L.
Mount Edgcumbe, E.	Mowbray, L.
Onslow, E.	Napier, L.
Romney, E.	Norton, L.
Rosse, E.	Penrhyn, L.
Stanhope, E.	Rowton, L.
Waldegrave, E. [Teller]	St. Levan, L.
Yarborough, E.	Shand, L.
	Stewart of Garlies, L. (E. Galloway)
Falkland, V.	Sudley, L. (E. Arran)
Knutsford, V.	Templemore, L.
Powerscourt, V.	Ventry, L.
Hopetoun, L. (E. Hope-toun) (L. Chamberlain)	Wemyss, L. (E. Wemyss)

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order).

*THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY : I propose to add certain words at the end of Clause 2. The Charitable Trusts Act of 1860 gives very large powers indeed to the Charity Commissioners in dealing with schools of less annual value than £50. In Clause 2 and Clause 4 of this Bill they are practically without any kind of control, and they deal with these matters according to the tradition of their own office, exercising vague powers which belonged at one time

to the Court of Chancery. They are now unrestrained in whatever they do. They are not empowered to put any scheme before either House of Parliament, and in fact they are almost autocratic. I do not think it does not work well, but I think it is a little risky to give such powers to a political office such as the Board of Education must necessarily be. The Charity Commissioners deal with all such cases according to well-established precedents, and I really cannot say that I think we have a right to complain of what they have done in this matter. But I think that there will be a serious risk that there will be a great deal of interference with these small endowments under this new system. I have no doubt that there will be very great pressure for money. I can see that the Government are very anxious to make a great system of secondary education and to do it cheaply, but they will find in certain cases that they cannot do it very cheaply. Money will be required, and nothing will be more natural than to seize upon all these small endowments, even where they are at present used for elementary education and belonging to the elementary schools. The trusts in many cases have no such division as will clearly ear-mark them for elementary education, and it will be so arranged that money will be wanted to provide cheaper education in elementary schools. To provide for the removal of the children to the secondary, and later on from the secondary to the still higher schools, a considerable sum of money will be wanted, and I think there will be great pressure brought to take this money from the schools that now possess it and to assign it to such purposes as I suggest. A political body is not quite the same thing as the Charity Commissioners in dealing with such cases. The Charity Commissioners do act with certain definite traditions, and I do not think a political body will always feel itself bound to act in the same way. I think, further, that it will be very frequently argued that a better provision is made for the elementary schools, because they can come upon the rates. That they may be put under the School Board and come under the rates, and will not want the money, and that that being so, there is no reason why this money cannot be seized upon and used for the purposes of secondary education. If that had been proposed twenty-five years ago, at

which time the first real movement was made towards looking to secondary education, there would have been much more reason [than now, because at this time a great many of what I may call vested interests have grown up. In the meanwhile, we have been wasting all this time in dealing with secondary education. A good many of these small endowments are used with good effect for elementary education, and I think it would certainly be a mistake to take them away suddenly or uselessly—take them away from the purposes for which they are being used at present. I therefore propose the Amendment, and so far as the form of it is concerned, I believe the noble Duke who has charge of the Bill does not object to it. But I cannot feel quite sure that he will not object to having any Amendment whatever. I do not intend to divide the House upon the subject, because I feel very strongly that the need of secondary education is so great that anything that would run the risk of delaying the passing of this measure would do harm to the country. I am not prepared to take the responsibility of taking any step which might lead to such a thing as that. But I think the matter well worthy of the consideration of your Lordships and the noble Duke who has charge of this measure, and if he cannot accept my Amendment, your Lordships will see that I am not proposing anything unreasonable in the Amendment I have the honour to move. The proposal comes to this—that the small endowments could be put under the same kind of control as the larger endowments are, under the Endowed Schools Acts. I want to propose that they shall be dealt with by a scheme which shall be under the control of either House of Parliament, and if that is so we shall know where we are, and it will enable us to hold the account, and will enable the legislature of each House to see that there is something like careful consideration given to every case of this kind. I grant at once that I should have great confidence in many of the precedents of new bodies and believe that they would do the right thing, but I confess that it may possibly be that at some day we should get a wrong thing done, for which we should afterwards be extremely sorry. I therefore submit this Amendment to the House for its consideration, and I do not think it is without its importance.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 2, at end, to insert 'and that any proposal by the Board of Education to alter the purposes of an educational endowment of less than fifty pounds a year shall be subject to the provisions with respect to schemes contained in Sections 33 to 36 and 42 and 43 of the Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Section 15 of the Endowed Schools Act, 1873.'"—(*The Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The DUKE of DEVONSHIRE): I am very far from saying that the Amendment suggested by the most reverend Prelate is an unreasonable one, but I hope that your Lordships will allow me to state the reasons why I cannot accept it. This Bill does not propose to deal in any way with the amendment either of the Charitable Trusts Act or the Endowed Schools Act. All it does is to substitute one administrative authority, the Board of Education, for another administrative authority, that is, the Charity Commissioners, in administering the existing law. Both the Charitable Trusts Act and the Endowed Schools Act deal with a great number of very delicate and difficult questions affecting interests both of a local and religious character, and, in our opinion, it would be a very disastrous proceeding, by any such proposal as that contained in the Amendment, to open the door to what might become in the other House of Parliament, if not in this, a very extensive review and revision of both those Acts. I am aware with regard to what I say that there is a noble and learned Lord opposite who has had his attention called to this question, who would be prepared, if your Lordships adopt any such Amendment as that which has been put on the Paper by the most reverend Prelate, to call attention to other anomalies in the Charitable Trusts and Endowed Schools Acts, which it would be difficult to resist if you once went into a review of the Acts themselves. The object of the present Amendment, as the most reverend Prelate has explained, is to protect the smaller endowments, which in many cases are now applied to the purposes of elementary education, from being diverted to the purposes of secondary education, and it implies that the restrictions which the legislature has not considered it necessary to impose upon the action of the Charity Commissioners ought to be imposed upon the action of the Education Board. I have endeavoured to point out

on the discussion of the Second Reading of the Bill why I think the pronouncements of the most reverend Prelate are not altogether well founded, and also how the powers of the Charity Commissioners, which are to be transferred to the Education Board, are not exercised so much without restraint as the most reverend Prelate seems to suppose. I will not enter now into details, but full publicity is to be given, and a full opportunity of discussing these questions, which is the real protection to endowments of this kind. If up to this time, the Charity Commissioners have not dealt more largely than they have done with the endowments devoted to elementary education, and which, no doubt, might be more usefully applied at the present day to other purposes, it is because any diversion of the proposed endowments is generally the object of strong local opposition. There is no reason whatever to apprehend that a board directly responsible to Parliament, such as the Education Board, will be more indifferent to such expressions of local feeling and local opinion than the Charity Commissioners have been. That is the reason for the opinion that I hold, that the proposals of the most reverend Prelate are not well founded. On the other hand, there are cases in which a diversion from the purposes for which the endowments are to be applied would be generally acceptable to the locality and the persons who are chiefly concerned, and it would be extremely inconvenient if in dealing with them the new board were to be so hampered and shackled as they would be if they had to follow the elaborate procedure laid down by the Endowed Schools Act, in cases where the scheme does not meet with any strong local opposition. It would also be, I think, unfortunate if such schemes as these, which had been fully considered with all the advantages of local knowledge, were then to be disposed of by a chance vote of a majority of this or the other House, which cannot be so well informed. My gravest objection, however, to the introduction of such an Amendment, is that I apprehend it would have the effect of introducing into the further discussions of this Bill the religious question, which has, up to the present, been entirely excluded from the discussion. We have endeavoured, and I believe, with success, to absolutely exclude the religious question from this Bill, and the acceptance of this Amendment, which

is obviously moved in the interest of voluntary and denominational schools would, I fear, have the effect of introducing the religious element. I have satisfied myself that there is no ground for the apprehensions which were expressed the other day by the noble Marquess opposite and the most reverend Prelate as to the preference of the free school with the conscience clause or without. When we come to that clause I can explain it more at large, but the most reverend Prelate need have no reason to apprehend that this Bill will introduce any prejudicial difference of treatment between those schools which do and those which do not provide religious education. The religious question has up to the present time been absolutely excluded, and I think it would be a subject of great regret if by the acceptance of this Amendment, which is moved in the interests of certain denominational schools, any risk were incurred of the introduction of the religious question into the further discussions. I have no reason to think that this measure, when it has passed through this House, will meet with any serious opposition in the other House. But if it does run any danger of not becoming law this year it is on account of the possible want of sufficient time for its discussion in the other House, and I am quite certain anything which would open the door to discussions in another place upon the question of the amendment of the Charitable Trusts Act and Endowed Schools Act, and, still more, any amendment capable of introducing discussions upon religious questions, would so protract the debates as greatly to endanger the chances of the Bill passing into law during the present Session. I was, therefore, very glad to hear the most reverend Prelate say he was not prepared to divide the House upon the Amendment, because I believe that such a course would have been most prejudicial to the passing of this Bill.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

*LORD DAVEY, who had the following Amendment on the Paper :—

"After Clause 8 to insert the following clause—'The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, and after a transfer of their powers under this Act, the Board of Education, shall have the same power of making schemes with respect to elementary schools exempted from the Endowed Schools Acts by Section 8 (b)

of the Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Section 3 of the Endowed Schools Act, 1873, where the annual income from endowments of such schools exceeds fifty pounds but does not exceed one hundred pounds, as may be exercised by them with respect to similar schools the income whereof from endowments does not exceed fifty pounds.'"

said : I have an Amendment on the Paper for the purpose of remedying one of those anomalies referred to by the noble Duke. By some oversight there is no power in any body to make schemes for elementary schools with an income from endowments between £50 and £100, and I think whenever an opportunity occurs that anomaly ought to be corrected. But after what the noble Duke has said as to the danger to the Bill in another place, and his desire not to introduce into this Bill any amendment which may result in the general review of the Charitable Trusts Act and the Endowed Schools Act, I shall not press it.

Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

MONEY-LENDING BILL. [Lords.]

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

TRAWLERS CERTIFICATES SUSPENSION BILL. [Lords.]

The Lords following were named of the Select Committee :

- D. Northumberland.
- E. Lauderdale.
- E. Camperdown.
- E. Dudley.
- L. Saltoun.
- L. Balfour.
- L. Tweedmouth.
- L. Hawkesbury.
- L. Heneage.

The Committee to meet on Monday next at half-past Three of the clock, and to appoint their own Chairman.

QUESTIONS.

WAR OFFICE—PROPOSED NEW BUILDINGS.

THE MARQUESS OF LOTHIAN : I beg to ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will cause a model of the proposed new buildings for the War Office to be made and placed in the

precincts of the House for the inspection of Members of both Houses of Parliament. I do not intend to detain the House very long. I addressed this question to Her Majesty's Government because I was not aware as to who was the proper authority, but I now find that the Lord Steward of the Household will answer on their behalf. I sincerely hope that he will be able to accede to the request I make, but I feel very doubtful as to the answer I shall receive. One reason why he may not acquiesce in the making of the model is because it will cost a considerable amount of money, and another is that plans and specifications have already been accepted. I think it is perfectly true that a model would cost a considerable amount of money, but I also think it is quite reasonable to ask such a sum as it may cost should be spent on this account, because it is a matter of great importance that the Houses of Parliament should know the purposes for which this money has been voted, and how it is being expended. With regard to the second point, I am quite convinced that ninety-nine persons out of every hundred cannot form any idea from plans and specifications. And I do not think, in this matter, that I speak without authority, because I think many of your Lordships will recall the fact that when the Admiralty buildings were to be erected, the plans and elevation were submitted and passed by both Houses of Parliament, and the Government accepted them and entered into a contract for their erection. A model was made, on the motion—I am not sure, but I think upon the motion—of the noble Earl sitting on the cross benches. That model was made and brought into the Houses of Parliament, the result being to show what a monstrosity the new Admiralty buildings would have been if they had been put up. The effect of it was that the contract was cancelled and the buildings were not erected. I regret that the same course is not pursued in the case of the present Admiralty buildings, because I think they are unworthy of the dignity of the offices which they contain. In their architecture they are weak where they should be strong, there are useless pediments which are not needed, pillars where they are not required, and there is a sort of trimming at the top which looks as if it was made out of the bricks from a child's toy box. I am told that when the buildings are finished they will

Marquess of Lothian.

not be large enough to contain the offices of the Admiralty. That is one result of Parliament not being consulted, and not knowing what is being done in respect of our public buildings. They cannot tell unless they see them in models with the elevation of the buildings round about them. I hope the noble Lord will not be deterred, by the fact that the plans and elevations have been shown, from granting the request which I wish to make. While it is no part of the motion of which I gave notice, I should like to appeal to those in authority on the question of the buildings to be erected in King-street. I would ask any of your Lordships to look at the Abbey from the Local Board Offices. You get now the finest view of it that has ever been had. You get it in its grand proportions, not dwarfed by the propinquity of St. Margaret's. Surely it is worth while, before it is too late, to keep open the most splendid view that you have in all London. You take in the whole group, opposite, of the Houses of Parliament. If the line which is proposed is continued you will see nothing of all this but Henry VIII. Chapel. I know that it will cost something to do, but surely it is worth while not to lose the only chance we have ever had in this metropolis of permanently securing such a view as this. I do not know whom I ought to appeal to, but I appeal to the Government generally not to allow this splendid view to be taken away.

*THE LORD STEWARD OF THE HOUSEHOLD (the Earl of PEMBROKE and MONTGOMERY): I am afraid I cannot give much comfort to my noble friend in the answer which I have to give him. The First Commissioner of Works does not see his way to granting the request with respect to the model of the building. The plans and elevations of the new buildings have been in the tea room in the House of Commons, and have been approved. In regard to the references which have been made to the present new Admiralty buildings, I might remind the noble Lord that that magnificent pile is the result of a Committee of the House of Commons. That does not encourage my right honourable friend to carry on the same procedure with regard to further public buildings.

THE MARQUESS OF LOTHIAN: I have no doubt whatever that it was owing

to its being a Committee of the House of Commons. I regret, and I cannot help regretting, that the answer of the noble Earl was drawn up and considered before the Government heard what I had to say upon the subject. I have already given my reasons why, in my opinion, it was desirable that a model should be made, but if the Government will not accede to my request I cannot help it.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I wish to say that, having heard the answers given to the noble Lord, I shall move a Resolution upon this subject when this House meets next Tuesday.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—WHITSUNTIDE RECESS.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Before the House adjourns, might I ask when it is proposed that the House shall rise for the Whitsuntide recess?

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My intention originally was to take the same day as the House of Commons, but as I am told that it will be impossible to send any Bills down to that House on that day, I have come to the conclusion that it is an unnecessary act of self-denial, and I think, therefore, we shall rise on the Thursday.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Until when?

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I hope I shall not be considered indecorous if I give as the date the day after Derby Day.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: The other House usually adjourns to the Derby Day.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: But even the sacredness of that day would not permit us to sit upon a Wednesday, which is a thing we never do.

House adjourned at half-past Five of the clock, to Monday next, a quarter past Four of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 12th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [Lords].

Standing Orders applicable thereto complied with.

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS CONFIRMATION (ABERAVON, &c.) BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [Lords].

(No Standing Orders applicable.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

BROUGHTY FERRY GAS AND PAVING ORDER BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

Standing Orders not previously inquired into complied with.

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

RENFREW BURGH AND HARBOUR EXTENSION BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

No Standing Orders not previously inquired into applicable.

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders not previously inquired into are applicable, viz. :—

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION BILL [Lords].

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS GAS BILL, [Lords].

INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Petition for additional Provision.

Standing Orders not complied with.

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petitions for additional Provision in the following Bills, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—

BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD RAILWAY BILL.

WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.

Ordered, That the Reports be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

REDDITCH GAS BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

SHIREBROOK AND DISTRICT GAS BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

WALLASEY TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENTS BILL [Lords] (QUEEN'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

WEST MIDDLESEX WATER BILL (QUEEN'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).

Read the third time, and passed.

BELFAST WATER BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION BILL.

As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

CORK CORPORATION (FINANCE) BILL).

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

MILTON CREEK CONSERVANCY BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE AND FISH-GUARD RAILWAY BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS) BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

EAST LONDON WATER BILL (BY ORDER).

As amended, considered :—

MR. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I rise to move the clause of which I have given notice, and which reads as follows :

"If the undertaking of the Company is purchased within seven years from the passing of this Act otherwise than by agreement by any public body or trustees, nothing in this Act shall authorise the Company to bring into account or to make any claim in respect of any advantages conferred on them by or resulting from the passing of this Act."

These are the words which are applied in a similar clause in a Bill which has been introduced by the Government, and which has now passed through this House, and has passed through most of its stages in the other House, and were introduced there at the suggestion of the Royal Commission. The Royal Commission, in recommending something of the nature of the Bill which the Government brought in, stated in their Report :

"It was urged by the London County Council that if the effect of any scheme of intercommunication should be to increase the value an arbiter would put on the undertaking of the company, we doubt whether this appreciation is well founded, but we think, in any case, all doubt on the subject should be removed,"

and they proceeded to suggest that a clause of this kind should be introduced. Now, we are in this peculiar position, that, as I pointed out when the East London Water Bills, which have now been amalgamated into one, were before the House, one of them, which is now Part 3 of the present proposed Bill, traversed some of the ground of the Bill of the Government, with the addition of a clause about taking water from the Thames under certain circumstances, but containing practically the provisions of the Government Bill in case of a temporary difficulty. Now, in the Government Bill there is introduced the clause that I have referred to, on the recommendation of the Royal Commission. We are in this peculiar position, that if the Government Bill and this Bill both become law, we should have in the one certain facilities and intercommunication, subject in the Government Bill to a clause such as I have read to the House, and in the other Bill, that promoted by the East London Water Company, we should have these facilities and powers without that restriction. Now, when a company comes to make the interconnection under this Bill, is their action to be subject to this clause, or is it not? I submit that the peculiar difficulty here has arisen from the fact that the Bills have gone before different Committees of the House. I would not have ventured to have brought this matter before the House at this stage, but have left it to the House of Lords to deal with it, but for the very peculiar position of sending up from this House two Bills the operation of which is intended to accomplish the same thing, the one being subject to a restriction and the other not. There is very high authority for the restriction in the clause such as I move. Three different Committees of this House, on three separate occasions in 1896 and 1898, decided that the authority of the Royal Commission is applicable to this particular case. I point out that in the present Bill under consideration there is a considerably stronger reason for inserting the clause than there was in the Government Bill, because this Bill gives facilities, not only for intercommunication, but for drawing additional water from the Thames. It also authorises a large concession of power to make certain reservoirs, the object of which is to provide for the increased population in the East

End of London. I admit that this increasing population should be very properly provided for in some way or other, but it should be made subject to the clause I have described. It may be said that the Bill for East London will not increase the value of the company's undertaking in case of purchase. There may be very considerable difference of opinion on that point, but what I want to make clear is that whether this increase takes place or not, that increased value should not be allowed to be brought in in a question of purchase. I am doing nothing new in this matter. In 1896, when certain Bills were brought forward and when the scheme for the purchase of the water companies was thrown out by the House, I pointed out that there was a danger, while the question of purchase was under the consideration of the Government, who had promised to deal with it effectively and immediately, that in the meantime certain powers might be given to the companies to proceed with works, and that these powers might raise their price against us, altogether irrespective of the addition to it by the expenditure of the money. The President of the Local Government Board met me very fairly by saying that he would make it an instruction to the Committee that they should not go any further in granting powers to the companies than the immediate urgencies of the case required. I was a member of the Committee presided over by the honourable Baronet the Member for Durham, and we found it was practically essential to proceed with the great Staines scheme. The Committee, however, while feeling that they were going possibly beyond the immediate urgency of the case with a view to the proper interpretation of the word "urgency," met the spirit of the instruction by putting in a clause such as I have moved here. They did not wish these powers which they were granting to increase the value of the undertaking in case of purchase, and they felt that the question of purchase was about to be decided by the appointment of the Royal Commission, whose Report we are looking forward to in a few weeks' time. The need of the clause is greatly intensified in the present Bill because the concessions being given by it to the company will, I certainly think (though some may not), raise the value of the undertaking in case of sale and

purchase. Now, it is not adequate to say that the introduction of a sinking fund into this Bill meets the whole question. The introduction of a sinking fund meets the requirements of the case in the event of the company not being purchased and proceeding to carry out the works—a certain portion of the profits is to be set aside for the public benefit. But suppose that the undertaking is purchased within the next year or two, this sinking fund does not affect the question. The question is this: whether the concession of the right to make inter-communication and to create new reservoirs for supplying a large population—whether that right, subject to a sinking fund, is a valuable property or not. Now, I hold it to be so. Whether it is or it is not, we are merely following the view of the Royal Commission, which says it is better in any case that all doubt on the subject should be removed, and that doubt will be removed by the introduction of this clause. There were two Bills, to one of which the instruction and Report which I have just read referred, and the other was the Bill for what is called temporary facilities of supply, and with respect to that there came a letter from the Local Government Board to my honourable friend the Member for Durham, indicating in the clearest terms that this portion of the Bill referred to the temporary supply which is incorporated in the present supply, and which was a repetition of the Government Bill itself. My argument is this—that the Government Bill having had this clause introduced, and the Local Government Board recognising that this Bill, so far as that portion is concerned, is the same as their own, the clause ought to be introduced into this Bill. I have laid before the House as briefly as I could the arguments in favour of the introduction of this clause. The position of the London water question is very serious, and the introduction of this clause seems to me to be the only way by which justice can be done, pending the issuing of the Report of the Royal Commission which we expect upon an early date. I therefore beg to move the introduction of this new clause.

A Clause (provision in case of future purchase of undertaking).—(*Mr. James Stuart*.)—brought up, and read the first time.

Mr. Stuart.

Motion made, and question proposed—
“That the Clause be read a second time.”

**SIR JOSEPH PEASE* (Durham, Barnard Castle): As Chairman of the Committee whose judgment has been impugned, perhaps I may be permitted to say a few words upon the reasons which induced us to refuse the application of the London County Council upon that occasion when this clause was suggested to us. I may again repeat what I have often said in this House, that it does seem to me a very dangerous practice for the representatives of the London County Council to come down here and impugn the decision of the Committee, and to try and make this House the organ for upsetting decisions which had been come to by Committees of this House when those Committees have had all the facts laid before them by the most competent counsel, I suppose, in the world, the counsel of the Parliamentary bar. If anything would induce this House not to upset the decision of the Committee, it is the very long speech and intricate argument of my honourable friend. First of all the instruction to which our attention was called by the Local Government Board, which the honourable Member has been good enough to read, was not an instruction from this House. It was merely a hint sent by the Local Government Board that we were to do what, in their opinion, had been done in former years, that is, not to pledge this House in any Act of Parliament to a course which hereafter might be found detrimental to some great and general decision with regard to the London water companies. That consideration was before us when we made the Report which we have had the honour to present to the House, and in it the Committee state that they had the instruction given in 1896 before them. Now, my honourable friend must know that there is a wide difference between the East London Water Bill and the Staines Reservoir Bill, which was a Bill brought in by three companies to supply water to any of those three companies according to their needs. In that Bill we not only inserted the sinking fund clause, but we put that clause in relative to the value of the companies not being increased, because it might be alleged when those three companies came to be purchased that the Staines Reservoir Bill had not merely the value of the Staines

Reservoir attached to it, but also a further value in connection with the supply to each of the other companies. Therefore, when we came to the clause that has been mentioned by my honourable friend, in which I had some little share, it was felt that if the Staines Reservoir was bought by any London or general district trust, or by the County Council, that there should be no increased value attached to it by reason of its construction. I think I can put very shortly before the House the reason why we did not insert this clause in the Committee on the Bill before the House. The Government Bill alluded to by my honourable friend was a Bill brought into this House with that clause in it, but when it left this House it had not any sinking fund clause in it. This Bill before the House to-day has the sinking fund clause in it. My right honourable friend's Bill (Mr. Chaplin) was based word for word upon the First Report of the Royal Commission. That Commission also said, in addition to what the honourable Member has quoted, that those auxiliary appliances should not be held to relieve the company from the obligation of improving its resources as rapidly as practicable, in order that it might be independent of all extraneous aid. That was practically an instruction from the body already appointed that we were to hand to the East London Water Company, if we could, further supplies, that would keep them perfectly clear of that extraneous Bill. It was a Bill merely for a temporary necessity, and we gave them power to take 10,000,000 gallons a day out of the waters of the Thames in addition to their own present supply, and so far as the evidence goes before us there will be no occasion for the operation of my right honourable friend's Bill, and those poor people who have been so destitute of water in the year of drought, unless there is a drought more extreme than that of last year, will be in possession of an ample supply of water. With regard to this sinking fund clause, the main portion of the Bill was for £1,000,000 sterling, to be spent upon reservoirs for holding the surplus water of the River Lea. Those reservoirs will hold about 5,000,000 gallons, and will cost about a million of money. Of that sum £230,000 sterling will be spent on the one reservoir, and £450,000 on the second reservoir. No reservoir to be constructed under this Bill can be in working order

for seven years from the date of the passing of the Act. That is what the engineer says, and you can generally safely give his estimate seven or eight per cent. of a margin, and so it will be seven or eight years before these reservoirs will be at work. My honourable friend's clause provides for the purchasing of the undertaking within seven years in his new clause. But suppose the reservoir is not ready at the end of seven years, how possibly could the works of an unused reservoir add to the value of the water companies' undertaking? Why should there be any restrictive clause put in the Bill for an unfinished reservoir? But suppose it is finished, then the sinking fund clause comes into operation in regard to this million sterling invested in these reservoirs as soon as ever a drop of water is taken out of the reservoir for public use. What is the sinking fund? I had a good deal to do with the sinking fund when it was re-drafted by the County Council before the Committee of 1892. What did it do? Why every penny of money that is raised for this purpose becomes liable to the sinking fund as soon as ever a drop of water is taken from the reservoir seven years hence. The sinking fund means that whatever proportion the new capital bears to the old capital to that extent the revenue applicable to the sinking fund goes to a certain purpose, and that revenue is set aside. The money to be spent has all to be raised by debentures, and the price of those debentures is fixed by the Governor of the Bank of England. Again, as soon as they are on the market they have to be sold by public auction, and therefore the money is got at the lowest possible price. That share which the new capital has earned in the total revenue is first to be allowed the interest on which the capital has been raised, then one per cent. goes to the water company for collecting the revenue and looking after the interests of the consumers. The balance of the revenue thus earned is then handed to the City Chamberlain, and it is to be invested in the companies' own stock, and that stock and its earning becomes the property of the City Chamberlain until this House orders an appropriation of the money so invested, and that has accumulated from the water supply of London. Therefore, no profit whatever can arise, first of all because the reservoir will not be finished by the time

my honourable friend's clause will work ; and, in the next place, under the sinking fund no possible profit can arise. I ask any gentlemen accustomed to acting as arbitrators how they can possibly add to the value of a concern on which there is no money being used that earned a profit. It is the earning of a profit which gives an increased value. Therefore the majority of the Committee, looking at the position of the revenue, and knowing that there could be no profit arise from the capital authorised to be spent, concluded that it would be no use whatever putting in this clause. I may be told that it would do no harm if it did no good. So far as my humble voice went I advocated that we should never cram a Bill with clauses of a useless character. I think I have now satisfied the House that the Committee acted wisely in doing what they did, and that it was no use putting this clause in, for it would be perfectly inoperative. My honourable friend was good enough to pay me a kind compliment for the way I acted as chairman of that Committee, but the worst compliment he can pay me is to come down to this House and challenge the decisions of that Committee. I do say again in this House that it is a dangerous practice for the House of Commons, on an *ex parte* statement, to upset the decisions of Committees which have been taken very quietly, and solemnly arrived at. The Committee which sat with me the other day was a painstaking Committee. Sir Robert Peel held that if the decision of a Committee was *prima facie* doubtful it should still be supported for the fear of producing greater evils. I trust that the House will believe that the Committee went carefully into this question, and that they had good reasons for objecting to the clause which my honourable friend asks the House to insert.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I regret that I was absent when the honourable Member moved his Motion, and I doubt whether I should be justified, as a member of the Government, in offering any advice upon this particular question. Nor do I think that I should have risen at all to take part in this Debate excepting for the fact that I have been informed of a statement made by the honourable Gentleman which might probably be calculated to give rise to some

misapprehension as to the attitude of the Local Government Board on this particular Bill. I may remind the House that it is the practice of the Local Government Board upon all Bills of this nature to send reports upon them to the Committee, and I understand that the honourable Member has argued in this case that the reports sent by the Local Government Board on this question must be taken as a general indication that the Local Government Board must be held to be averse to the principle of this measure. That was not so, for the reports of the Local Government Board were intended merely and solely as information with regard to matters generally affecting the question, and it was only right to put them before the Committee for their general consideration. That being so, what I am informed the honourable Member has said upon this subject is calculated to mislead the House as to the attitude of the Local Government Board. So far as I am personally concerned, I agree with what has fallen from the honourable Baronet who has just sat down, and who presided over that Committee, and who has had a vast experience, not only on Committees, but on other bodies dealing with this particular question. In addition to this, I venture to say that the House will do well to bear in mind what has happened upon former occasions when Bills of this nature promoted by the water companies have been rejected by the House of Commons.

MR. STUART reminded the right honourable Gentleman that he had not proposed the rejection of this Bill.

MR. CHAPLIN: I must say that I think the House would be wise in accepting the views of the Chairman of the Committee, and I feel it is my duty to support this Bill.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) thought the warning which the right honourable Gentleman had addressed to the House was entirely unnecessary and entirely wrong, because no one had proposed to throw out this Bill, or to oppose its progress in any possible way. The question before the House was simply whether or not the Amendment of his honourable friend should be inserted. He wished to say just a word or two with regard to the argument addressed to the

Sir Joseph Pease.

House by the honourable Baronet below him. So far as he understood him, one of his arguments was expressed in some such terms as these—that because this Bill has in it a sinking fund clause there was no necessity to introduce in it the purchase clause which his honourable friend had suggested. Now it seemed to him that those two clauses—the sinking fund clause and the purchase clause—were really alternative clauses dealing with the same question. That was to say if the companies continued to exist the security was given to the public by the operation of the sinking fund clause. If, in the alternative, purchase was effected within seven years, a similar object was attained by the purchase clause. In the second place the honourable Baronet said that the Government Bill when it left this House did not contain a sinking fund clause, and that was perfectly correct. They knew now that a Committee in another place had inserted in the Government Bill a sinking fund clause, and as the matter now stood the Government Bill contained both a sinking fund clause and the purchase clause of his honourable friend. Therefore they were only asking that this Bill should follow the precedent of the Government Bill. The honourable Baronet had said that there was no necessity for this clause, although he admitted their contention in principle that the companies ought not in the event of purchase to derive any advantage from the works which this Bill authorised. If that was so, why did he object to the insertion of this clause? The honourable Baronet said it was undesirable to introduce unnecessary clauses in the Bill, and he thoroughly endorsed that sentiment. But then a high authority had suggested a doubt as to whether or not these companies would be able to claim compensation in respect of these works, and he thought it was wise to take security against it. He thought the House would do well to adopt the suggestion of his honourable friend.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.) said he was a member of the Committee which sat under the chairmanship of the honourable Baronet, and he could assure the House that the matter was fully considered. He thought the House would be very ill advised to attempt to fight this battle over again upon the present occasion. The subject occupied the atten-

tion of the Committee for some three or four days, and they arrived at the best conclusion they could. For the House to consider this question thoroughly would involve a discussion almost as long as they were compelled to devote to it in Committee. It was not quite correct, as the honourable Member for Hoxton had said, that they were producing an anomaly by this Bill. The anomaly existed, for even the sinking fund clause was not the same in the different Bills, and the circumstances of this company were not upon all fours with the circumstances of other companies. Upon this question he was not in exact harmony with everybody who sat on his side of the House, for on many occasions he had supported the view of the London County Council. They were the constituted authority for London, and as long as that was so they ought to support them whenever they could. That being so, and the Committee having gone into this matter more fully than this House was likely to do upon the present occasion, he ventured to assert again that if this Bill was passed it would not create an anomaly that would be disadvantageous to the public.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract) said that as a member of the Committee he felt it his duty to divide the Committee upon this subject. He recognised the ability of the chairman of that Committee, and his great experience both on Committees of the House and in the country on Bills of this nature, but he was convinced on the evidence placed before them that it was not necessary for them to pass a temporary Bill at all. He considered that the Bill of the right honourable Gentleman, the President of the Local Government Board, had given sufficient facilities to this company. The engineer in cross-examination before the Committee was asked the following question:

231. Now, do you say that this Bill does not in itself give you all that you require for tiding over all the difficulties which you told the Commission you could get over even with the present means of communication?"

And his reply was:

"It would certainly tide over the present year if a drought should occur in the present year equal in intensity to the drought of last year."

There was another point in this Bill in regard to the 10,000,000 gallons of water taken from the Thames—

*MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member must confine his remarks to the clause which is now before the House.

MR. NUSSEY said he would bow to that ruling, although he did not think they ought to prejudge any action which might be taken in the future. That being

so, he urged upon the House the advisability of strengthening the Bill by adding the clause which the honourable Member for Hoxton had moved.

The House divided: Ayes, 73; Noes, 185. (Division List No. 140.)

AYES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Billson, Alfred
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness)
Colville, John
Crombie, John William
Daly, James
Davitt, Michael
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-

Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Sir Leonard
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Kenna, Reginald
Maden, John Henry
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Kelly, James
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reid, Sir Robert Threshie

Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Govan)

TELLERS for the AYES—Mr.
James Stuart and Mr.
Pickersgill.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Foster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bethell, Commander
Blakiston-Houston, John
Bond, Edward
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme.
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burt, Thomas
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
Carew, James Lawrence
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Herefd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fry, Lewis
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gold, Charles

Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cams.)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hill, Rt. Hon. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
Hill, Arthur (Down, W.)
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Kimber, Henry
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn.)
Lecky, Rt. Hon. William Edw. H.
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent)

Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 M^cCalmont, H. L. B. (Cambs.)
 M^cIver, David (Liverpool)
 M^cIver, Sir Lewis (Edinb, W.)
 M^cKillop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas John
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Monk, Charles James
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. Deptford
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)

Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretynian, Earnest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Richardson, Sir Thos (Hartlep)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyne)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)

Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS for the NOES—
 Viscount Folkestone and
 Mr. Goulding.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION, AND GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAIL- WAY BILLS.

Mr. Firbank, Sir Robert Penrose-Fitz-
 Gerald, Mr. Samuel Morris, Mr. J. F. X.
 O'Brien, and Mr. Patrick O'Brien, nomi-
 nated Members of the Select Committee,
 with four to be added by the Committee
 of Selection.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Local Government Provisional Orders
 (No. 7).—Bill to confirm certain Provi-
 sional Orders of the Local Government
 Board relating to the boroughs of Barn-
 staple and Halifax and to the counties of
 East Sussex and Middlesex, ordered to
 be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and
 Mr. Chaplin.

Local Government Provisional Orders
 (No. 8).—Bill to confirm certain Provi-
 sional Orders of the Local Government
 Board relating to Bath (three), Devonport
 (two), Margate and Oxford, and to the
 Romford and Wallingford and Crowmarsh
 United Districts, ordered to be brought
 in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr.
 Chaplin.

Local Government (Ireland) Provi-
 sional Order (No. 1).—Bill to confirm a

Provisional Order of the Local Govern-
 ment Board for Ireland relating to
 Wicklow Harbour, ordered to be brought
 in by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland
 and Mr. Gerald Balfour.

Local Government (Ireland) Provi-
 sional Orders (No. 2).—Bill to confirm
 certain Provisional Orders of the Local
 Government Board for Ireland relating to
 Dublin, Belfast, Larne, and Longford
 (Rural), ordered to be brought in by Mr.
 Attorney-General for Ireland and Mr.
 Gerald Balfour.

Local Government Provisional Orders
 (No. 7) Bill,—“to confirm certain Provi-
 sional Orders of the Local Government
 Board relating to the boroughs of Barn-
 staple and Halifax and to the counties of
 East Sussex and Middlesex,” presented,
 and read the first time; to be referred to
 the Examiners of Petitions for Private
 Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 192.]

Local Government Provisional Orders
 (No. 8) Bill,—“to confirm certain Provi-
 sional Orders of the Local Government
 Board relating to Bath (three), Devonport
 (two), Margate, and Oxford, and to the
 Romford and Wallingford and Crowmarsh
 United Districts,” presented, and read the
 first time; to be referred to the Examiners
 of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be
 printed. [Bill 193.]

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill,—“to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Wicklow Harbour,” presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 194.]

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill,—“to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Dublin, Belfast, Larne, and Longford (Rural),” presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 195.]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

ST. ANDREWS BURGH PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES (NEW LINES) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

LINCOLN AND EAST COAST RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

UXBRIDGE AND RICKMANSWORTH RAILWAY BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

BELFAST AND NORTHERN COUNTIES RAILWAY BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY AND TOWN GAS BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

SURREY COMMERCIAL DOCKS BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

GLASTONBURY WATER BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

BELFAST CORPORATION BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill:—

Amendments to—

Loughborough and Sheepshed Railway Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act to confer further powers upon the Corporation of Manchester and neighbouring authorities in respect of Tramways within and beyond the city; and for other purposes.” [Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, “An Act to empower the Corporation of Oldham to construct additional tramways; to make a new street; to confer further powers upon the Corporation and other authorities with regard to tramways in and near the borough; and for other purposes.” [Oldham Corporation Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, “An Act to authorise the Corporation of the City of Glasgow to construct new Tramways; to establish libraries; to extend the boundaries of the city; to raise further moneys; and for other purposes.” [Glasgow Corporation (Tramways, &c.) Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, “An Act to confer further powers on the Corporation of

Glasgow in relation to their gas, water, and electricity undertakings; and for other purposes." [Glasgow Corporation (Gas and Water) Bill [*Lords*].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Stockton and Middlesbrough Water Board to construct a new reservoir and other works; to amend the Acts relating to the supply of water by the Board; to change the name of the Board; and for other purposes." [Stockton and Middlesbrough Water Bill [*Lords*].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Totland Waterworks Company; and for other purposes." [Totland Water Bill [*Lords*].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the Governors of the London Hospital to acquire certain lands; and to erect buildings for their Out-Patients' Department; and for other purposes." [London Hospital Bill [*Lords*].]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Liverpool Overhead Railway Company to take on lease certain authorised tramways in the districts of Waterloo-with-Seaforth and Great Crosby; to authorise the construction of additional tramways; and for other purposes." [Liverpool Overhead Railway Bill [*Lords*].]

MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

GLASGOW CORPORATION (TRAMWAYS, &c.) BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS AND WATER) BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

STOCKTON AND MIDDLESBROUGH WATER BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

TOTLAND WATER BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

LONDON HOSPITAL BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

LIVERPOOL OVERHEAD RAILWAY BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

BOILERS INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION BILL.

Petition of the Mining Association of Great Britain, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872.

Petition from Ventnor, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Sunderland, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

GROUND VALUES (TAXATION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Bridgeton, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour;—From Braysdown; Clifton Hall;—Old Mills;—and, Shire-oaks and Steetley Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petitions in favour;—From Leicester; Keighley;—and, Ivybridge; to lie upon the Table.

REGISTRATION OF FIRMS BILL.

Petition from Leicester, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

Petitions against establishment ;—From Kingussie ;—Grantown ;—Galashiels ;—Glasgow ;—Strathpeffer ;—and, Dingwall ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Walkden ;—Ashton-on-Ribble ;—Preston ;—Wigan ;—Anti-Sunday Travelling Union ;—and, Manchester ; to lie upon the Table.

SAVINGS BANKS.

Petition from Inverness, for inquiry by a Select Committee ; to lie upon the Table.

TEMPERANCE REFORM (THREEFOLD OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Irvine, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

VACCINATION ACTS, 1867 TO 1898.

Petition from Keighley, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Copy presented,—of Statistical Tables for the year 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1894.

Copy presented,—of Treasury Minute, dated 2nd May, 1899, declaring that Thomas Benson, Chief Mate, Revenue cruiser "Vigilant," in the service of the Commissioners of Customs, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS' (IRELAND) PENSION FUND.

Annual Accounts presented,—of Receipts and Payments for the period to 31st December, 1898 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE ACT, 1888.

Account presented,—of all Moneys issued from the Consolidated Fund, of Sums borrowed, and of Transactions in

relation to Sums so borrowed, up to 31st March, 1899, in pursuance of the Act [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 194.]

WINES IMPORTED.

Return ordered,— "of the quantity of Wines, at the various degrees of strength, which were imported into the United Kingdom from Spain, Portugal, Madeira, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Australasia, and other countries for the year 1898 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 155, of Session 1898)." —(*Mr. Gold.*)

QUESTIONS.

DANGEROUS TRADES COMMITTEE.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the evidence taken in Sheffield by the Dangerous Trades Committee will be published, in order that the workmen in the file-cutting and other trades affected may be able to judge if the witnesses had sufficient knowledge of the facts to guide a Committee without practical experience in the trades concerned.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) : Much of the evidence taken by the Committee on the file-cutting and grinding trades was obtained informally by them while visiting the working places. Evidence was also given formally by many witnesses (most of it by representatives of the workmen themselves), and notes, though not verbatim reports, were taken. In accordance with my honourable friend's suggestion, I have asked the Committee to summarise the notes with a view to their publication.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT : Will that include the informal as well as the formal evidence ?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : Yes.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT : Will the names of the informal witnesses be given ?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: That is rather a matter for the Committee.

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): Is the right honourable Gentleman aware that representatives of working men's organizations express great dissatisfaction with the findings of the Committee?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: This is a question rather of the evidence taken than of the findings.

LUNACY.

MR. P. O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): On behalf of the honourable Member for Wicklow, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been recently called to the statistics of insanity; whether he is aware that an increase in the actual numbers of registered insane from 55,525 to 132,831 has taken place between the years 1862 and 1896, and an increase in the ratio of insane to population from 1·81 to 3·33 per 1,000 during the same period; and, whether he will cause an inquiry to be made into the subject to ascertain if any means can be devised to arrest the spread of the disease.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I am aware that the numbers of the registered insane do, most unfortunately, increase. At the same time, I would refer the honourable Member to the Special Report of the Lunacy Commissioners, published in 1897, on the subject, and I cannot say that at present I see sufficient ground for directing further special investigation.

PETERBOROUGH RAILWAY STATION.

MR. MONCKTON (Northamptonshire, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any and, if so, what improvements have been made in the Great Eastern Railway Company's station at Peterborough, in pursuance of their promise to the Board of Trade; and, whether, in the opinion of the Board, there is now satisfactory and sufficient security for the safety of the travelling public at that station, having regard especially to times of great pressure, such as excursions, agricultural shows, &c..

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon):

The General Manager of the Great Eastern Railway Company writes to me as follows:—

"I beg to state that after the Order for the works referred to in my letter of 7th December last had been given by the Board, an improvement was suggested in them which has delayed somewhat the carrying of them out; but I have the pleasure to inform you that they have been commenced, and will be proceeded with with all possible speed."

As regards the second paragraph of my honourable friend's question, I can only say that the Board of Trade regard what is being done as merely a substantial instalment of what is necessary to perfect the condition of things at this station.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS' PAY.

SIR LEONARD LYELL (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can explain the delay that has occurred in giving a reply to the petition of the lighthouse keepers of the United Kingdom for an increase of pay; and, whether, having regard to the fact that seven months have now elapsed since these petitions were presented, he will urge the authorities to give their decision at an early date, and so allay the dissatisfaction which now prevails in the lighthouse service of the country.

MR. RITCHIE: As stated in my reply to the honourable and gallant Member for the Eastern Division of the County of Cork on the 1st May, I have lately received applications from the three lighthouse authorities for the sanction of the Board of Trade to increase of pay to the lighthouse keepers in their employ. No time has been lost in considering these applications, and I hope to be able to announce the decision of the Board of Trade at an early date.

UNQUALIFIED DISPENSERS.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council whether the Executive of the General Medical Council had stated, in their reply to the Privy Council, what grounds they had for considering that accidents due to the employment of unqualified dispensers by medical practitioners were very rare; and, if not, would he ask that body what means they had of knowing the number of accidents, fatal and otherwise, which resulted in doctors' surgeries from the employment of unqualified dispensers.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): The infrequency with which such cases are reported to the Privy Council tends to confirm the opinion of the General Medical Council that they are very rare, and the Privy Council have not therefore thought it necessary to ask the General Medical Council for any further information.

KINDERGARTEN TRAINING.

MR. MORRELL (Oxford, Woodstock): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, whether, having regard to the expressed opinion of the Education Department in 1892, that it is desirable to give further encouragement to the employment of kindergarten methods in infant schools, he will inform the House what steps have been taken to secure adequate training in kindergarten method in the training colleges, and to make this subject an essential part of the curriculum and examination demanded of teachers, whether pupil or assistant, prior to obtaining certificate of qualification for an appointment to a public elementary infant school under inspection; and to what extent managers of public elementary infant schools have availed themselves of the opportunity of appointing as assistant teachers persons holding certificates of the National Froebel Union under the Code of 1892.

SIR JOHN GORST: As a rule no special training is provided in the training colleges for teachers of infants' schools. In the syllabus of examination for certificates of this year kindergarten is for the first time specifically mentioned as an optional subject. A considerable number of managers have availed themselves of the provision mentioned in the second paragraph, but no precise figures can be given.

VACCINATION.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state the statutory authority for imposing a poll tax on all registered births in England and Wales; has he received a further communication from Mr. J. F. Haines, of Mile End, calling attention to another case of eruption after vaccination, viz., the case of the child of Mr. and Mrs.

Fitzer, of Louisa Street, which was vaccinated on the same day as Mr. and Mrs. Rouse's baby, and by the same public vaccinator; and has an inquiry been made; did the Public Vaccinator report either the case of Mr. and Mrs. Rouse's baby, or of Mr. and Mrs. Fitzer's; is there any penalty, and what, imposed on the Public Vaccinator if he neglects reporting such cases to the Local Government Board; is he aware that the Mile End Guardians have adjourned the consideration of the Rouse case pending the report of the Local Government Board's Inspector; and will that report be forwarded to the said Board of Guardians.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. H. CHAPLIN, Lincs, Sleaford): As regards the first point, I do not know what is the tax to which the honourable Member has referred. I have received a communication from Mr. Haines as to the child referred to in the second paragraph, but my information, resulting from inquiries I have made, is in direct conflict with his. 1. The child was not vaccinated on the same day as Mrs. Rouse's child, but more than a month afterwards. 2. The child suffered after its vaccination from a mild attack of chicken-pox, a disease which has no reference to vaccination. 3. The mother herself expressed annoyance that persons who had called on her had wanted her "to make a fuss that the chicken-pox was due to vaccination." In reply to the fourth paragraph, there is no obligation on the part of the Public Vaccinator to report to the Local Government Board such cases as those referred to in the question; and in reply to the fifth paragraph, I have received a communication from the Guardians with regard to the case, but they do not ask for a copy of the Inspector's report, and it is not customary to forward to the Guardians copies of reports of this kind, which must often necessarily contain references to private family history.

MEAT INSPECTORS.

MR. P. O'BRIEN: On behalf of the honourable Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that there exists no body specially empowered to conduct examinations and issue certificates to candidates applying for appointments as

meat inspectors; and whether he will arrange to establish such authorised body on the lines indicated in the Local Government Board Order of 11th March, 1899.

MR. CHAPLIN: I have no statutory authority to carry out such an arrangement as that referred to in the Question, and, before proposing any legislation on the subject, it seems to me desirable to await the result of the communications which I have addressed to the local authorities. In addition to this, the Sanitary Institute and other bodies have, I believe, for some years past afforded opportunities for training and examination in meat inspection in connection with the certificates to Sanitary Inspectors, and I have no doubt that the recently constituted Sanitary Inspectors Examination Board will maintain similar examinations. Moreover, I understand that the Sanitary Institute are maturing a scheme for holding special examinations in meat inspection.

THE TRANSVAAL DYNAMITE CONCESSION.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the sole right to manufacture all explosives in the Transvaal was granted by the Volksraad in 1882, two years before the London Convention; that a joint stock company was established in London in 1882 to work the concession, but failed to make it pay, and the company was liquidated in 1888; if he will explain in what way the explosives concession is a breach of the Convention of 1884, the Convention being made after the concession; and, whether the concession is an infringement of Article 26 of the Pretoria Convention of 1881; and, if so, which of the Sub-sections, (a) (b) (c) or (d), is infringed by it.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I am not aware of all the details mentioned, but any concession which may have been granted in 1882 no longer exists. The existing concession dates from 1893; it infringes Sub-section (c) of Article 14 of the London Convention, which is identical with Sub-section (c) of Article 26 of the Pretoria Convention of 1881.

DOCKYARD APPRENTICES.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (York, W. R., Shipley): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, will he explain why permission has been given for dockyard fitter apprentices to be allowed to sit at the forthcoming examination for direct appointment as probationary assistant engineers in the Royal Navy, seeing that the practice of entering such candidates was condemned in paragraph 9 of the report of Admiral Cooper-Key's Committee; if the fitter apprentice candidates previously mentioned are in addition to those already annually elected for training at the Keyham Engineering College; and, if so, has this permission been granted in consequence of a dearth of candidates for direct entry into the engineering branch of the Navy; if the fitter apprentice candidates previously mentioned have attended the regular day engineering course at a recognised college for technical education for one year as prescribed by paragraph 3 of the Regulations for all candidates for direct appointment as probationary assistant engineers in the Royal Navy; and whether the parents of those candidates for engineer studentships and direct entry assistant engineers who have to bear the cost of their sons' training for the position of probationary assistant engineer have been informed that it is the intention of the Admiralty to allow dockyard fitter apprentices to compete.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. G. J. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover-square): An examination of the questions asked by the honourable Gentleman shows that they have been put under a misapprehension of the regulations for the entry of probationary assistant engineers in the Royal Navy. The system is the same as it has been for several years past, and no fresh departure has been made with regard to the admission of dockyard apprentices, who are treated in the same manner as other candidates for direct entry into the Service. I may add that the apprentices who have received permission to compete at the forthcoming examination have qualified as laid down in the Regulations.

H.M.S. "TERRIBLE."

SIR EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he will inform the House what decision has been arrived at relative

to the boilers of H.M.S. "Terrible;" will he state the nature of the repairs found to be necessary; and, what firm is to do the work, and the amount of the tenders.

MR. GOSCHEN: The repair of the boilers of the "Terrible" has been taken in hand. The five elements in which tubes were fractured are being renewed throughout with solid drawn tubes and certain other tubes which were bulged are being also replaced by solid drawn tubes, and any defective fittings repaired or renewed as necessary. As the work is being done by the Dockyard in the usual manner, no tenders for repairs have been invited from private firms.

H.M.S. "GALATEA."

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether H.M.S. "Galatea" has yet undergone the usual examination in dock; and, if so, why she has not again taken up her station in the Humber, as promised on 15th March, 1898.

MR. GOSCHEN: The "Galatea" has undergone the usual refit in the Dockyard, after which she returned to her station. She is now under orders to leave for special duty in connection with the North Sea Fisheries.

MAJOR GRANT, R.E.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, will he explain why, during last August, Major Grant, R.E., was appointed to command the Royal Engineers at Victoria, British Columbia, and given local rank as Lieutenant Colonel, and took the position of Officer commanding the garrison, although Major Trotter, Royal Marines, over whom his command extended, is two years senior to Major Grant.

*THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. G. WYNDHAM, Dover): While important building works necessitating heavy expenditure of public money are under construction, it is desirable that the Senior Officer should, as heretofore, belong to the Royal Engineers. In order to effect that object the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel was conferred on Major Grant.

Sir Edward Gourley.

VOLUNTEER MUSKETRY PRACTICE.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War when the amended regulations for the musketry practice of the Volunteer Force will be in the hands of Members.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The amended regulations for Volunteer Musketry will be issued with the June Army Orders. I will have some copies placed in the Library for the convenience of honourable Members interested.

BOMBARDMENT OF ILOILO—CLAIMS OF BRITISH TRADERS.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has been informed that, on or about the 18th of February 1899, the town of Iloilo, situate in the Philippines, being held by the Filipino insurgents, was shelled by the United States Navy; that the town was set on fire by the bombardment, and thereby damage was caused to buildings and property of foreign residents and merchants, chiefly English, German, French, and Swiss, the estimated value of which was about one million sterling; and that the United States Government intend to compensate traders; and, if so, whether Her Majesty's Government are aware whether claims will be dealt with by a committee appointed by the United States Government locally, or if they should be submitted to Washington; and if Her Majesty's Government are acquainted with the probable date of settlement of such claims; and, if not, will they take steps to ascertain.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Her Majesty's Government are aware that a certain amount of British property was destroyed by the bombardment of Iloilo. They have, however, no information with regard to the intentions of the United States Government to compensate traders. The question of these claims is under consideration, and British interests will not be lost sight of.

PORTMAHOMACK HARBOUR.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland has received a memorial from the Parish Council of Tarbat, Ross-shire, making application for

a grant in aid of the extension and improvement of Portmahomack Harbour; and, will he state whether it is proposed to make application to the Treasury with a view to accede to the request of the memorialists.

***THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. G. MURRAY, Buteshire):** The answer to the first part of the honourable Member's question is in the affirmative, and to the second in the negative.

SCOTTISH FEMALE TEACHERS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether arrangements can be made by which female teachers under the Scotch Education Department, who retire from the service on marriage, may receive a gratuity, in accordance with the practice in the General Post Office.

***MR. A. G. MURRAY:** The Superannuation Act does not contemplate any such gratuity as is referred to, nor is the Government prepared to admit that the position of teachers is analogous to that of employees in the General Post Office.

SECONDARY EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if the Secretary for Scotland will state what sum has been allocated, for the six months ending 31st March last, under Clause 2, Section 4, of the Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1898, for the purposes of secondary or technical (including agricultural) education in Scotland.

***MR. A. G. MURRAY:** The moneys annually distributable under the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account Act, 1898, are paid into the account by half yearly instalments, payable in advance. The sum of £37,109 16s. has been paid over to the Scotch Education Department, being the total amount payable under Section 2 (4) for the current financial year.

SKYE FISHERIES.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, seeing that the sum of £15,000 per annum had been allocated to the Fishery Board for Scotland under the Local Taxation (Scotland) Act of last session, for the purpose of providing and maintaining vessels for marine superin-

tendence, and otherwise for the enforcement of the Scottish Sea Fishery laws, will the Secretary for Scotland state whether the Board proposes to secure another cruiser so that there may be a more efficient police patrol of the fishing beds off the islands of Lewis, Skye, and Barra.

MR. A. G. MURRAY: I am informed by the Fishery Board that they propose to obtain another cruiser, and she will, when obtained, take such part of the service as may be allotted to her.

ANDERSON INSTITUTE, LERWICK.

SIR LEONARD LYELL: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware of the circumstances under which Mr. Young, the rector of the Anderson Institute at Lerwick, has been dismissed by the School Board from his office; and, whether, seeing that so large a portion of the salary and pension of teachers in public schools in Scotland is supplied from other than local sources, the Government will be prepared to institute some means, by legislation or otherwise, whereby an independent inquiry can be held in such cases.

***MR. A. G. MURRAY:** The circumstances of the case referred to are now subject of correspondence with the School Board, and it is inexpedient to make any statement regarding it at present. The appointment and dismissal of teachers are matters for which school boards are responsible to their constituents, and the Government are not at present prepared to institute legislation on the subject.

EDUCATION GRANTS EARNED IN SCOTLAND.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state the grant earned throughout Scotland during the year 1898 for each of the subjects designated in the Schedule of the Evening Continuation School Code, as No. VI. (Agriculture, Horticulture, Navigation), and No. VII. (Domestic Economy, Needlework, Knitting, and Mending); and, will he state how many classes have been held in Nos. VI. and VII. respectively in each of the six Highland Crofting Counties.

***MR. A. G. MURRAY:** It is not possible to give the amount of grant earned for each subject under the Evening Continuation School Code, as payments are

made according to the number of hours of teaching in all subjects added together. In regard to the second part of the question, I must again say that it is impossible to give detailed statistics, containing many separate items, in reply to a question: but if the honourable Member will apply to the Scotch Education Department, all such information as can be furnished without serious interference with the ordinary conduct of business will be supplied to him.

MR. WEIR: Will the right honourable Gentleman take care that the information is furnished before the Scotch Estimates are discussed?

*MR. A. G. MURRAY: In moderation, I can only say I believe that all possible information is given the honourable Member.

PARLIAMENTARY RATING RETURN.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, when the Return "Rates Non-payment (Scotland) (Omission from the Parliamentary Register)," ordered to be printed by the House on the 9th August last, will be in the hands of Members.

*MR. A. G. MURRAY: This Return has now been completed and will be laid on the Table as soon as possible.

REGISTER OF SASINES, EDINBURGH.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the recent Minute by the Secretary for Scotland regarding the office of the Register of Sasines, Edinburgh, issued as a Parliamentary Paper, was printed in England; if he can explain why the English instead of the Scottish royal coat of arms appears on it, to what the error is due, and, as attention has been drawn to a similar mistake last year, if he will take steps to avoid its recurrence; and whether, when the interests of the public service allow it, he will cause Papers relating to Scottish Departments to be printed in Scotland.

MR. A. G. MURRAY: The Minute of the Secretary for Scotland referred to is prepared in the Scottish Office, Whitehall, and it is necessary in the interests of the public service that such Papers should be printed in London. The Secretary for

Mr. A. G. Murray.

Scotland sees no reason for any change in this procedure, either as regards royal arms, or otherwise. All Papers prepared in public departments in Scotland are printed in Scotland, and the Scottish royal coat of arms appears upon them.

MR. PIRIE: Why should Papers issued from the Scottish Office in London not bear the Scottish royal arms?

*MR. A. G. MURRAY: I cannot add to my answer. I understand the Scottish royal arms are put only on Papers printed in Scotland, and the English arms on those printed in England.

THE MINUTES OF THE SCOTCH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the promised issue of the Minutes of the Scotch Education Department can be published in one volume, in chronological order, and so annotated as to distinguish repealed or superseded provisions from those still operative.

*MR. A. G. MURRAY: The Minutes to which reference was made yesterday will be issued together, and in chronological order. Their publication in that form will make it easy to see which provisions of the earlier Minutes have been superseded by the subsequent Minutes; but notes will be added indicating this as far as possible.

SCOTTISH GRANTS IN AID.

MR. CALDWELL: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, whether, in estimating that a sum of £26,000 per annum would be required from the Imperial Exchequer in order to raise the Scotch fee grant from 10s. to 12s. per head, the Department had taken into consideration not only the £40,000 under the Act of 1890, but also the balance of the Probate Duty under the Act of 1889 as amended by the Act of 1892, and that the average attendance for 1897 was 611,205, thus requiring only £61,120 to meet the deficiency of that year; whether the Probate Duty is an increasing quantity, and in what ratio is that fund increasing or otherwise as compared with the increase of the average schools attendance entitled to the fee grant; upon what principle it is estimated that only £5,000 and not £26,000 is required this year to keep the Scotch

Fee Grant up to 12s. per head; And, whether Scotland will be credited with the difference if there has been a miscalculation?

*MR. A. G. MURRAY: In making the estimate of the amount required to raise the Fee Grant to twelve shillings, the Department did take into account both the £40,000 under the Act of 1890, and the possible balance under the Act of 1892; and it also took into consideration the estimated average attendance. The average attendance is an uncertain quantity, and the balance under the Act of 1892 has fluctuated between nothing for the years 1894-95 and 1896-97, and £16,202 for 1897-98. The estimate of the additional sum required is only £5,000 for the present year, owing partly to the fact that there is an unexhausted balance of £2,875 still due to the Department, but chiefly to the large balance received in 1898 under the Act of 1892. I can make no prediction with regard to the Probate Duty, and consequently cannot say what will be its possible increase compared with that of the average attendance. The Department is confident that the latter will certainly increase. I do not admit that there has been any miscalculation.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION RULES.

MR. WILLIAM MOORE (Antrim, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to the recent rule of the Irish Land Commission, under which an applicant to fix a fair rent in that Court is obliged to procure a certificate of valuation of the holding for the hearing before the Court, and file same, which has become necessary by reason of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, in order to enable the Court to decide upon the incidence of taxation, thus imposing an additional cost to the suitor of 2s. 6d. in each case; whether he will make representations to the Land Commission to the effect that, as a public department, they should themselves procure this information in each case, free of expense to the parties, by a form of requisition addressed to the other public department, the Commissioners of Valuation in Ireland; and, what fund now receives the 2s. 6d. so paid for such valuation.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The Land Commissioners consider that the applicant, to fix a fair rent, should obtain the certificate of valuation for the standard year before he prepares the originating notice, as reference to such certificate will assist him in filling up the notice correctly, and will, in many cases, prevent the occurrence of errors and difficulties in the identification of the particulars of the holding, as set forth in the certificate, with those in the originating notice. Such identification is now essential in every case, having regard to the provisions of the Local Government Act, and the Land Commissioners decline to incur the responsibility of the identification. In their opinion the applicant, to have a fair rent fixed, should, as in every other Court, supply the Commission with the information requisite for adjudicating upon his case. The Land Commission are prepared, however, to consider the question of providing that certificates on the form prescribed by the Order made by the Local Government Board pursuant to Section 54, paragraph 10, of the Local Government Act, may, when available, be received. As regards the last paragraph, the fees received for certificates form part of the appropriations in aid of the vote for the Valuation Department.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS FOR MONITORS.

MR. P. O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will grant the usual five years' allowance in Civil Service examinations to monitors who have served in Irish national schools.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Age allowances in Civil Service examinations are governed by Clause 4 of the General Regulations relating to such examinations, drawn up by the Civil Service Commissioners and approved by the Treasury. Apart from the Naval and Military Services, &c., the allowances are confined to persons who entered with the certificate of the Civil Service Commissioners.

GALWAY LAND COMMISSION.

MR. SHEEHY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord

Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the Land Judge issued a request to the Land Commission to inspect the Sconlon estate at Whitegate, county Galway, in November, 1897; and whether the Land Commissioners have yet forwarded their report to the Land Judge.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The request of the Land Judge in the case of this estate was issued in November, 1898, not 1897. The estate has been inspected by two assistant Commissioners, whose report is now being settled, and will, I am informed, be forwarded to the Land Judge in the course of a few days.

PROSECUTION FOR DRUNKENNESS AT MOUNTCHARLES.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): On behalf of the honourable Member for S. Donegal, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a summons was issued by Constable Fallon, of the Royal Irish Constabulary, now stationed at the police station of Mountcharles, Co. Donegal, against John Morhun, of Mountcharles, who has been a teetotaler for nine years, for being drunk in the public street on the 17th of March; and that the summons, when Mr. Moohun's solicitor had stated the facts to the magistrates at petty sessions, was withdrawn; and, whether any notice has been taken by the authorities of the conduct of Constable Fallon.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: It is the fact that a summons was issued against Mr. Moohun by the constable named, for drunkenness, on the 17th March. Before any evidence was gone into, the defendant's solicitor appealed to the Bench, and said that his client had been a teetotaler for nine years, and that he was so grieved and distressed at his being summoned that he was ill in consequence, and that if the Magistrates, owing to the facts stated, would take this into consideration it would materially aid the man's recovery. The charge of drunkenness was not denied, and the Magistrates, who were impressed with the appeal made to them on behalf of the defendant, suggested the withdrawal of the summons. This was done, and the defendant's solicitor thanked the police for their kindness. The constable seems to have acted properly in the circumstances.

Mr. Sheehy.

IRISH LAND VALUATION.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, will he explain why Sub-Commissioners in Ireland have had to stand an examination in Dublin recently as to their fitness to fix fair rents between landlord and tenant before Doctor Voelcker, who is an English chemist; and, whether he can say what knowledge of land valuing in Ireland Dr. Voelcker has, or if he can state upon what grounds Dr. Voelcker was selected for this important position.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The examination referred to is conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners for the Irish Land Commissioners. The subjects are agriculture, principles of surveying, English composition, including *précis*, and arithmetic. Land valuation is not a subject of examination, nor was the examination in surveying conducted by the examiner named in the question, who is an agricultural chemist of eminence, and was selected by the Civil Service Commissioners to examine in agriculture.

IRISH PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.

MR. P. O'BRIEN: On behalf of the honourable Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government will consider the necessity of introducing a Bill to remedy the existing expensive and inconvenient method of Private Bill legislation for Ireland.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: It must be obvious to the honourable Member that it would be impossible to introduce and pass a Bill dealing with this subject during the present session. As to the general question, I consider that some reform in the method of Private Bill legislation for Ireland is desirable.

IRISH JUDICIAL SALARIES.

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, what is the amount of the sums which have been carried by the Treasury to a separate account under Section 13 of The Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) (No. 2) Act, 1897, in respect of the salaries attached to the judgeships abolished or left vacant, and the net savings in the said section mentioned.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The amount so carried up to date is £7,563 17s. 3d., to which must be added £4,000 provided at page 501 of the current Estimates. £7,500 more will be so carried in respect of the present financial year. These amounts represent the salaries of one suppressed judgeship of the High Court and the two former Bankruptcy Judges. No net savings have as yet been realised in respect of the administrative staff.

IRISH WORKHOUSE OFFICIALS.

MR. P. O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether indoor workhouse officials who have not 40 years' service and who are not 60 years of age will be dealt with under the 118th clause of the Local Government (Ireland) Act by the Local Government Board or by the County Council when they become incapacitated and obliged to retire from office.

*MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The position of indoor workhouse officers who are not qualified for a superannuation allowance on the appointed day is not affected by the enactment referred to. Workhouse officials will continue, as heretofore, to be under the control of the Board of Guardians, who are the proper authority to recommend their officers for retiring allowances, subject to the Local Government Board's approval.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SKELLIG MICHAEL.

MR. LECKY (Dublin University): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the works which he undertook in the summer of 1897 to have carried out under proper supervision at the ancient ruin of St. Michael's Church on Skellig Michael, in the county of Kerry, have been commenced; and, whether the Superintendent of National Monuments, Ireland, has himself or by his deputy inspected this ancient church, and reported on the dangerous condition in which it was placed in 1895 by the fall of its enclosing wall; and, if so, might a Copy of his Report be laid upon the Table of the House.

A JUNIOR LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. ANSTRUTHER, St. Andrew's Burghs, for Mr. HANBURY): Almost all the repairs promised in 1897 have been carried out. The remainder will be

executed during the summer. The church was inspected in 1897 by one of the surveyors of the Board of Works, who deprecated any considerable interference with the ruins as unnecessary. Within the last few days one of the Board's professional officers has been directed to make a further inspection, and if the right honourable Member will raise the question again after the recess, additional information will be afforded to him.

CELTIC ORNAMENTS COMMITTEE.

MR. P. O'BRIEN: On behalf of the honourable Member for East Clare, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he intends to take any steps to carry out the recommendations of the Committee on the Celtic Ornaments recently discovered in Ireland?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Yes, Sir; the Government are taking steps to carry out the recommendations of the Committee on Celtic Ornaments.

THE PURCHASE OF THE DILLON ESTATES.

MR. SMITH-BARRY (Hunts, Huntingdon): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland a Question of which I have given him private notice, namely, whether it is true, as reported in *The Times* of to-day, that the Congested Districts Board have entered into an agreement for the purchase of the Dillon estate, in County Mayo, occupied by 4,000 tenants; and, whether the estate is situated within or without the existing agrarian agitation in Mayo.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: It is true. The Congested Districts Board have entered into an agreement to purchase the Dillon estates in counties Mayo and Roscommon. I am not aware of any agitation in connection with any part of the Dillon estates.

METROPOLITAN CHARITIES AND THE LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

MR. STEPHENS (Middlesex, Hornsey): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, under the operation of the London Government Bill, in the case of parishes which may be included in a borough created under the Bill, the

benefits of charities now exclusively belonging to such parishes would pass over to the borough in which they may be included, or whether such charities would continue, as heretofore, to be enjoyed exclusively by the parish to which they now belong.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In answer to my honourable friend, I have to say that no transfer of the legal status of the trust will affect the beneficiaries of the trust in any way, or, in other words, it would not injure those for whose benefit the Trust now exists.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury what will be the business for next week?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Wednesday, as the House knows, is left for private Members. The Government nights, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, will, I suppose, be occupied by the London Government Bill. Friday will be occupied by a discussion on the Adjournment of the House and by some Votes in Supply, which, I hope, are of an uncontroversial character.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for Lancashire (Southport Division), in the room of Sir Herbert Scarisbrick Naylor-Leyland, baronet, deceased.—(Mr. Herbert Gladstone.)

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufacturers:—Mr. Austin, Mr. Bartley, Captain Chaloner, Captain Donelan, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Philipps, Mr. Power, Mr. Abel Smith, and Mr. James Stuart; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Coltery,

Mr. Stephens.

Mr. Gilliat, Sir Alfred Hickman, Major Jameson, Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Charles Morley, Sir Stafford Northcote, and Mr. Samuel Young.

MR. HALSEY further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure: Sir Alfred Hickman; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Bartley.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Trade, &c.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 195.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 195.]

Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Thursday, 1st June, and to be printed. [Bill 196.]

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 197.]

PARISH CHURCHES SCOTLAND BILL [Lords].

Read for the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 1st June, and to be printed. [Bill 198.]

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Sir William Reynell Anson, Baronet, Doctor of Civil Law, for the University of Oxford.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Ordered, That the proceedings of the Committee of Ways and Means, if the Committee is sitting at Twelve of the clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House, and may be entered upon at any time though opposed.—(Mr. Balfour.)

BILL INTRODUCED.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (IRELAND)
BILL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The principal object of the Bill which I now ask leave to introduce is to provide remedies for certain grievances under which the payers of tithe rent-charge at present suffer, and which can only be dealt with by legislation. There are two classes of tithe rent-charge payers in Ireland, the payers of ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge and payers of lay tithe rent-charge. Each of these have their own special grounds of complaint. Let me first take the payers of ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge. The Irish Church Acts of 1869 and 1872 gave power to payers of Church tithe to redeem their liability either by a payment in cash or by means of a terminable annuity. These terminable annuities run for a period of fifty-two years. But if the interest charged in the annuity be taken (according to Mr. Gladstone's declared intention in 1869) at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the capital sum in respect of which the annuities are paid would, in fact, be discharged in forty-five years instead of fifty-two years. I do not see how it is possible to defend the continuation of these annual payments for seven years after the capitalised liability has been discharged. This injustice has already been remedied by the Land Act of 1896 in the case of lands sold to the tenants under the Land Purchase Acts. The scope of that Act precluded any more general application of the remedy; but we publicly recognised at the time that the principle applied equally to the case of all ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge redeemed by terminable annuity, and the present Bill proposes to give effect to that recognition by altering the currency of the annuities to a period of forty-five years. The payers of ecclesiastical tithe rent-charges have another grievance. The Irish Church Act of 1872 definitely fixed the amount of the charge at its amount as payable on November 1st, 1871. Before that the tithe payers had power to apply periodically for a revision of the charge, as lay tithe payers have still. It is true that no objection appears to have been offered at the time by those interested in this stereotyping of the

charge. But the heavy fall in agricultural prices which subsequently took place was not then foreseen either by the legislature or by the tithe rent-charge payers; and the system introduced by Mr. Gladstone has in the end proved very prejudicial to the interests of the latter. It must be remembered that the charge is a charge upon rents, and while rents have been greatly reduced under the supervision of a State tribunal, the rent-charge can no longer be varied. While I am not prepared to place this grievance in the same category with the first-mentioned, I do think a hardship has been inflicted on the tithe payer to which it would be desirable to apply a remedy, if a reasonable remedy can be found. What remedy, then, do we propose? We propose that the distinction created by the Irish Church Acts between ecclesiastical and lay tithe rent-charge should be done away with by restoring to the former the character of a variable charge, and at the same time withdrawing from the payer of ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge the special right which he now possesses under those Acts of converting his liability into a terminable annuity. We further propose that the old basis of variation should be changed. The old basis was the variation in the average prices of cereals as published in the *Dublin Gazette*, and in place of it we propose to substitute a new basis of variation, namely, the average percentage of variation in judicial rents in each county during successive periods of fifteen years. The variation will be automatic and general, instead of depending as formerly on individual applications to a court of law, applications which were rendered difficult by a highly technical and cumbrous method of procedure. The general effect of these changes will be an immediate relief to the tithe payer of about 20 per cent. of his payments, and a further relief at the end of the next fifteen years if a further reduction shall have taken place in the average of judicial rents. On the other hand, the right of redemption now enjoyed by payers of ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge will be taken away. The relief to the tithe payer means, of course, loss to the Church Fund; but against that loss must be set the advantage the Fund will derive from the withdrawal of the right to redeem, and the consequent retention of the remaining ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge as a permanent source of income. Any attempt

to strike the balance of gain and loss must be to some extent speculative, but on the supposition that if the Bill did not pass full and immediate advantage were taken of the present right to redeem by all payers of ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge, the Church Fund would probably be worse off than if our proposals were adopted. So much for the provisions of the Bill with reference to ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Can the right honourable Gentleman give any estimate of the total capital loss involved in these changes?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: It is very difficult to give a precise estimate, because it would depend upon a great many circumstances which cannot be foreseen. But before the Bill passes into law I will endeavour to lay before the House such an estimate as it is possible to make. But the payers of lay tithe rent-charge also have their grievance, and a very few words will suffice to describe it and the way in which we propose to deal with it. It appears that a serious legal difficulty has lately arisen out of a decision of the Appeal Court, the effect of which is that, owing to irregularities in the method of publication of corn averages in the *Dublin Gazette* the tithe rent-charge payer is practically deprived of his right to have the charge varied, and variations in tithe rent-charge based on those averages are held to be invalid. The defect can only be cured by legislation, and the remedy we provide in the Bill is to apply to lay tithe rent-charge the same new standard and the same automatic method of variation as that which we propose to adopt in the case of ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge. In fact, if the Bill passes the two classes of tithe rent-charge will be once again on an identical footing, just as they were before the Church of Ireland was disestablished. I have now described the principal provisions of the measure. It contains in addition one or two other amendments of the law, but these are of minor importance, and of a technical character, and it is perhaps hardly necessary that I should enter further into them at present.

Motion made and resolution proposed—

“That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to tithe rent-charge in Ireland.”—(Mr. G. W. Balfour.)

Mr. G. W. Balfour.

MR. DILLON said that on Tuesday last the Government availed themselves, most improperly as he contended, of the ten minutes Rule to introduce an extremely important and complicated Irish measure, which appeared to be the chief Irish measure of the Government for this session, and now they asked leave to introduce another measure of a highly contentious and complicated character under the same circumstances. This extreme development of this policy led him to the conviction that it was the deliberate intention of the Government, by gross misuse of the ten minutes Rule, never contemplated when the Rule was passed, to no longer allow debates, so far as Irish Bills were concerned, on their first stage. Now, there were characteristics of the present measure which made it, in his judgment, in the most extreme degree unsuitable for the application of the ten minutes Rule. In the first place, this was surely a contentious measure; and he maintained it was not the intention of the Government that this Rule was to be applied on Government days for the introduction of a Government Bill, but was only intended for the introduction of small and non-contentious measures. This was a highly contentious Bill, it was a complicated Bill, and it was, in the third place, a Bill dealing with financial matters, and a Bill almost setting up a new precedent in the financial prospects of the House, because it proposed to strike off a considerable amount—they were not allowed to know what that amount would be—which was secured to the Treasury of this country for large advances. They were asked to strike off a large proportion of that sum. Now, he desired at the very outset to direct the attention of the House to the last occasion on which it was proposed to interfere with the Irish Church Fund. The year 1894 was the last occasion on which the Government of the day proposed to take any sum from the Irish Church Fund. The right honourable Gentleman the Member for Montrose, who was then Chief Secretary for Ireland, proposed to charge upon the Irish Church Fund a sum of £100,000 for the purpose of assisting the reinstatement of the evicted tenants of Ireland. That was a Bill proposing only to charge £100,000 of the capital sum, involving an annual charge of less than £3,000, whereas the present Bill, so far as one could follow the brief

and utterly insufficient statement of the right honourable Gentleman, would place upon the Church Fund a charge at the very least ten or fifteen times as great as that proposed to be placed upon it by the right honourable Gentleman. The Bill of 1894 was far smaller than the present Bill. Yet what was the procedure adopted? Did the then Chief Secretary have recourse to the ten minutes Rule? No, he introduced his Bill in the ordinary course, and the debate upon it consumed a whole night of Government time; and what made the contrast between the procedure on this occasion and the procedure adopted then the more striking was, that after occupying a whole night of Government time the Bill was allowed to be read a first time without a Division, whereas the First Reading of the present Bill would undoubtedly be challenged. He himself would take objection to it by dividing the House on it. Now he come to a very important passage, as bearing upon the present Bill, from a speech delivered upon that occasion by the present First Lord of the Treasury, who was then leading the Opposition. Speaking with the full sense of responsibility as having been recently Chief Secretary for Ireland, he said :

"Following the order of the right honourable Gentleman's explanation, I now come to the amount to be taken from the Irish Church Fund surplus in order to meet this amount."

That amount, remember, was only £100,000. The First Lord, continuing, said :

"I have two observations to make upon that—first, when I was in office, and had official information on this point, I was assured that the Irish Church Fund surplus was mortgaged to the hilt, and the number of charges on it was such that if we had taken £1,500 for the Congested Districts Board nothing would have been left behind, and if we are to charge that sum of £100,000, and the Fund proves insufficient to meet the liabilities, it is impossible for the British taxpayer to fancy he will get off without having to meet the difficulty."

That was the language of the right honourable Gentleman in 1894. He denounced the right honourable Member for Montrose for an attempt to place any fresh charge upon the Church Fund. Contrast the right honourable Gentleman the Member for Montrose's proposal with the present one. The former proposal was to place £100,000 upon the Irish Church Fund. But what was the proposal now? It was

to strike off large assets of the Fund which were charged to the Treasury of this country for large advances already made, and that without having one single estimate placed before them to show if they were justified in making this singular deduction, and without any knowledge of the extent to which the deduction would go. What would have been said of the right honourable Gentleman the Member for Montrose in 1894 if he had introduced the Evicted Tenants Bill, making this proposition for £100,000, under the ten minutes Rule? There would have been motions for the adjournment of the House, and a debate would have followed in which the right honourable Gentleman would have been subjected to all kinds of denunciation. This Bill proposed to take from the Irish Church Fund, devoted by Mr. Gladstone, when he disestablished the Irish Church, to purposes of education and public utility in Ireland—it proposed to take from that fund, if there were any assets left to it—and he believed there were in spite of the declaration of the right honourable Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury to the contrary—those assets, and divide them between the supporters of the Government. A more scandalous and indecent proposal was never made in the House than this proposal to deal out eleemosynary aid to the supporters of the Government in Ireland. These people were said to be suffering under a grievance. Why, they got a quarter of a million of money last year, when he supposed they thought they ought to have got the whole of the Agricultural Grant for themselves. The Chief Secretary proposed in his Bill to divide the tithe payers of Ireland into two classes under the Bill. First he had the ecclesiastical tithe rent payers and then the lay tithe rent payers, and the attempt of the right honourable Gentleman to draw any analogy between the two classes was absurd, and one calculated to mislead the House and leave it under a false impression. The grievance of the lay tithe rent payers had arisen from the neglect of the Castle and the neglect of the Government. When they came to the ecclesiastical tithe rent payers the proposals of this Bill were the proposals of public plunder. The ecclesiastical tithe rent payers, by the Act of 1872, to which all the representatives of the landlords were consenting parties, was passed by this House in order to revive a finan-

cial structure on which the Established Church was disestablished, and was passed in view and after full consideration of the terms given to the disestablished Church, and they parted with their right, which they manifestly did not value at the time, to have their tithe reforms and their tithe rent-charges made a perpetual charge, subject to the right of redemption alluded to by the right honourable Gentleman. That tithe rent-charge now meant two sums, one in the shape of terminable annuities amounting to about £160,000, and the other in the shape of perpetual unredeemable charges amounting to a similar sum. The right honourable Gentleman proposed to cut off from those terminable annuities seven years, which would run close upon one million sterling, to be handed over to the ecclesiastical tithe payers. He then proposed to give an automatic revision and reduction of the tithe rent-charge, amounting to, roughly, about 20 per cent., to be increased at the termination of 15 years by another 20 per cent. or so. Twenty per cent. on £160,000 would amount to something like £35,000 of the perpetual tithe rent-charges, and he offered that

compensation for right of redemption, which everyone of the tithe rent-charge payers had a right to exercise, but declined to exercise. They had an equal right of redemption, and only half of them have exercised that right. Therefore, they proposed in one way to give them £30,000 a year, and then they also proposed to take away the right which they had enjoyed for 25 years past. He proposed to conclude by moving the adjournment of the House, because he believed the introduction of this Bill was a gross abuse.

*MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Gentleman cannot, under the Standing Order, move the adjournment.

MR. DILLON: Then it is within your discretion to put the Question of adjournment.

*MR. SPEAKER: Yes, under Standing Order 16.

The House divided on the question "that leave be given to bring in the Bill."
—Ayes 205; Noes 113. (Division List No. 141.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manx)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barr, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith-
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Biddulph, Michael
Bill, Charles
Blakiston-Houston, John
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cayser, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Bir.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry

Chelsea, Viscount
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cruddas, William Donaldson
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Ferguson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manx)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue

Fletcher, Sir Henry
Folkestone, Viscount
Fry, Lewis
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond- (Camb.)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hill, Arthur (Down, W.)
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howard, Joseph
Howell, William Tudor
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-Cora

Mr. G. H. Palfrey.

Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edw. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Calmont, H. L. B. (Camba.)
 M'iver, Sir Lewis (Edin'gh, W.)
 M'Killop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, J. Thrognorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. Jn.
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Monk, Charles James
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptfd)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.

Murray, R Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pease, Herbt. Pike (Darlington)
 Pender, Sir James
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph

Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Chas. Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marnaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Blake Edward
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hn. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness)
 Colville, John
 Crombie, John William
 Daly, James
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry

Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbt. John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Gordon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon.
 Kitson, Sir James [Sir U.
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumber.)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Leod, John
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Kelly, James
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor

Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickering, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Reekitt, Harold James
 Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbigh)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Wallace, Robert (Perth)
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notte)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
 Wilson, John (Govan)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr.
 Dillon and Mr. Davitt.

MR. DILLON said he desired to ask the Chief Secretary what course he proposed to adopt with regard to the Second Reading of the Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! There can be no further Debate at this stage.

MR. DILLON said he simply wished the Chief Secretary to give an undertaking not to take this Bill until after Whitsuntide, and give the Irish Members fair and proper notice when the measure was to be brought on, instead of putting it down without notice.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR said the Government had no desire to rush the Bill unduly, and the Second Reading would not be taken before Whitsuntide.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, and Mr. Solicitor-General for Ireland.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (IRELAND) BILL.

"To amend the law relating to Tithe Rent - charge in Ireland," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 199.]

FINANCE BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said that it seemed to him quite obvious that some steps must be taken to meet the difficulty with regard to the permanent annual charge for the National Debt, for he thought that it had been put off already too long. The market for Consols was narrower now than it had ever been before, and there was no doubt whatever that the circumstances were daily making the position of affairs more complicated. It was true that they might slide on in the way they were doing for another year or two. It was possible that this might last during the office of the present Government, and the present tenure of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But to let a difficulty of this sort slide did not seem to him an ideal system of managing finance, and it was no solution of this

great problem. It was a rather remarkable thing that the more the country benefited by growing prosperity and wealth, the greater became this grave difficulty. At the rate they were now going on it was quite clear that persons now living might live to see the day when Consols would disappear in the market, and some arrangement must be made to meet this great difficulty. He would in a very few words draw the attention of the Committee to the circumstances under which the present position had arisen. During the first half of this century they inherited by the great war this great debt, and although constant efforts had been made to reduce it, the total of the debt remained about the same during the first 30 or 40 years of this century. In the year 1836 the debt stood at £853,000,000, and 25 years afterwards, in 1861, it stood at £828,000,000, so that during that long period of 25 years, what with fresh borrowing and paying interest on the debt, the total remained practically stationary. There was no doubt that during the first 60 years of the century the debt was almost looked upon as a permanent thing. It was looked upon as an enormous debt which would always be there, and was never likely to be altered in its circumstances or position. In the year 1861 two very great changes were commenced, which had an enormous effect, and which had led really and truly to the present position of affairs. Both those steps were right steps, and they were the first real effort to reduce the debt. This was largely owing to the efforts of the late Mr. Gladstone, whose example was also followed by the late Sir Stafford Northcote. But in addition to that, in 1861 the Post Office Savings Bank was established, and this had an immense effect upon the position of the debt. During the 40 years that had elapsed since 1860 the debt had been reduced by £200,000,000, for that was the amount of the debt which had been paid off. But in addition to that the Post Office Savings Bank, which began in a very modest and mild manner with a small sum, like all healthy institutions, gradually developed into a great success, and the effect had been that during the 38 years since it was first established, the net amount paid into the Post Office Savings Bank alone had been no less than £123,000,000. All that money had for

all practical purposes been used to buy Consols. It was true that some small sums had been used in other ways, but not to any large extent. Therefore, in the 38 years that had elapsed since these two movements began, no less a sum than £328,000,000 had been withdrawn from the Consol market, so that whereas in 1861 there was at least £750,000,000 of the debt available for any purpose in the market, there was now only £328,000,000, or less than one-half. In 1861, when the Post Office Savings Bank was established, Three per cent. Consols stood on an average at 91½. But now the 2½ per cent., which were to be reduced in a very short time to 2½, stood at about 110. The rise in the price of Consols had, of course, been concurrent with the enormous change of Consols in the market. When Consols were under par there was no possible difficulty in carrying out the regulations under which the debt was reduced, and the Savings Bank money was used for investment. Any number of millions at that time could have been bought, and were bought, at a price which enabled the institutions to go on satisfactorily, and which was profitable to the country. But when Consols had become so very much above par as they were at present, and when they saw the enormously decreasing supply, the position of the Consol market as it affected the Sinking Fund, the Savings Bank, and the other allied funds was altogether changed. Three main points at once cropped up. First of all, there was at the present time an absolute loss upon the Post Office Savings Bank in revenue, *i.e.*, at their present price Consols barely paid their depositors' interest; secondly, they provided at this price absolutely nothing for the Sinking Fund; and, thirdly, the constant purchase of Consols in the limited market was continually forcing up the price against ourselves. They knew perfectly well that there was really no margin of profit for the carrying on of business, and there was no provision at all for what had become a very serious matter, the Sinking Fund. Such being the case, he would like to ask, what was the position under the present Budget? There would be £5,800,000 from the Sinking Fund, in addition to which the right honourable Gentleman would receive about £9,000,000 from the Post Office Savings Bank; roughly speaking, he would receive

£15,000,000 in cash, and what was he going to do with it? Of course, he might use a portion of it in temporary loans, but the fact remained that, owing to the colossal size of the sum, he would have to buy Consols with it during the year—that was to say, if he purchased £15,000,000 worth of Consols out of the remaining £350,000,000, he would have to buy one twenty-fourth of the whole of the remaining debt in the hands of the public, next year one twenty-third, the following year one twenty-second, and so on. It was obvious, therefore, that in the next five years he would have to buy no less than 75¼ millions worth of all the Consols remaining in the hands of the public, including the bankers. If he did this, he must raise the price of Consols even higher than it was at present. As a matter of fact, for every million of Consols purchased, there would eventually be a loss of £250,000 to the State. Upon 9 or 10 millions the loss would be no less than £2,500,000. Should the price of Consols rise to 120—it had already been above 113—the loss upon every million purchased would be £150,000. If the Stock Exchange, or the persons who held Consols, knew that nothing but Consols could be purchased, it was clear that those who held them would attempt in every way to raise the price if they were forced to sell. If Consols went very much higher than 120 or 130 it would be cheaper even to put the money into a box, where it would receive no interest. That being the case, it seemed to him obvious that some stop must be put to the present state of affairs. No doubt some honourable Gentlemen thought that one means of doing so would be to make a change in the Post Office rules to reduce the interest and maximum. But that would not be a complete solution, because although they might reduce the amount of the Post Office Savings Bank deposits to say one-half, they had got nearly six millions coming into the Sinking Fund, and there would still remain 10 millions a year to apply to the purchase of Consols; although that would lessen the evils of the present system, the evil would continue. There was only one possible solution of the problem, and that was to use the money in some other way which would relieve the Consol market and yet be a safe and proper investment. Honourable Members opposite would probably object, but,

having this enormous amount of cash coming in, something must be done with it. Nothing could be much worse than the dangers and complications involved in the present arrangement. Therefore, as they must have something of an alternative character, he ventured to put down the clause standing in his name on the Paper for consideration. He suggested that the whole of the Financial Fund and the Post Office money should be paid into a separate fund, to be called the Accumulating Sinking Fund, the whole amounting to about 15 millions a year. He proposed that none of this money should be used to buy Consols unless Consols should drop to par, which, of course, they would tend to do towards 1893, and they would drop much more under the system of buying the stock in the manner he now proposed. This would take some time, and in the meantime he proposed that the money should be used for three purposes. First of all, he proposed that the money should be lent to India; secondly, to our Crown Colonies; and thirdly, to local authorities. The amount of money lent to India was 4 or 5 millions a year; the amount lent to the Crown Colonies was smaller; but the amount lent to local authorities had been growing very much of late, and was, roughly speaking, about 10 millions. The conditions he attached to the loans were that, first of all, they should be sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or in the case of local loans by the Local Government Board. The second condition, to which he attached great importance, was that each loan should be taken absolutely and entirely out of this Fund. There were immense objections to the State subscribing to a loan which was on the market, because it guaranteed to a great extent the security of the loan and it gave a fictitious value to it on the Stock Exchange. The mode of operation would be comparatively simple. It would be very similar to that in connection with the local funds now. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for India, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or the Local Government Board would settle the terms of each loan. There would be no occasion to have a definite rule as to detail, but the circumstances would be considered in each case and facilities given as the authorities controlling the loan thought fit. At present

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the rate at which India borrowed was, roughly speaking, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Crown Colonies had to pay a somewhat higher rate; the rate of the London County Council was $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the various local authorities paid over 3 per cent. He proposed that the loans should be made at a somewhat less rate of interest than they could be negotiated in the market. He had no doubt some would say that there were great objections to the State lending to India, the Crown Colonies and the local authorities. He acknowledged that there were objections, but they were not nearly so great as the objections to the present system. It seemed to him that, inasmuch as under it the people would get the benefit of a lower rate of interest and the State would save the money now lost in buying Consols, there would be a double blessing. It might be said that the proposed system would interfere with the finances of the City. That might to a certain extent be true, but after all, those 15 millions, which represented a very large sum when applied to one particular investment, were but a fraction of the amount of money saved in investing in new capital every year in this country. From the accounts published he found that every year about 150 millions of new capital were created, so that not more than one-tenth of the sum would be affected. Another objection raised was that the cheapening of loans to the local authorities might tend to promote extravagance. Although he did not deem it advisable that municipalities should be allowed to embark in too many schemes, still, there were so many works which the spirit of the times required a locality to undertake for the improvement of its district—parks, waterworks, gasworks, electric light works, and so on—that it seemed reasonable, when we had this enormous amount of money which they did not know how to invest, that it should be applied to such purposes. The last objection raised to the scheme was that if there was to be a run on the Savings Bank it would be practically impossible for the loans to be turned into cash. That was quite true; but he ventured to assert that if there was a tremendous run on the Savings Bank now—if 20, 30 or 40 millions were withdrawn, and Consols had to be sold to meet the demand—Consols would be practically as unmarketable as the local loans.

There were one or two advantages of his system. It would stop the dangerous inflation of the price of Consols and bring them down to their natural price, and it would save the State the enormous loss which accrued through the purchase of Consols under the present system. He fully agreed that this would not solve the problem of what would happen some day when Consols were scarcer and when we held in the Post Office two or three or four hundred millions; the day would come when that great problem would have to be faced, but this would tend to clear the ground for it. It would tend to make the Money Market, the condition of Consols, and the Sinking Funds safer, and he therefore ventured to submit that the matter was worthy of the consideration of a great Chancellor of the Exchequer. He thought it would be wise, politic, and statesmanlike to end the century with some real and businesslike scheme for solving this great financial question. He begged to move the new clause standing in his name.

New Clause—

"The Treasury shall open a special account, to be called the Accumulating Sinking Fund, into which all moneys received from the repayment of the terminable annuities created under Section 14 of this Act shall be paid, and also any balance that may from time to time remain from the permanent annual charge for the National Debt as provided in Section 13 of this Act.

"The Treasury shall also pay into the Accumulating Sinking Fund all or any portion of the moneys received from the Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks not required for current uses of the Savings Banks.

"From the Accumulating Sinking Fund the Treasury may purchase consolidated stock in the open market in such quantities as the Treasury may approve, provided the price so paid is at or below the price of par, and may lend on terminable annuities or for fixed periods to India, to the Crown colonies and to local authorities such sums and at such rates of interest as the Treasury may from time to time approve. Provided that—

"(a) Each such loan has been approved either by the Secretary of State for India, the Colonial Secretary, or the Local Government Board; and

"(b) The whole of each such loan shall be taken by the Accumulating Sinking Fund, the terms of the loan being such that no part of each such loan is or ever can be held by any other person or authority other than the Accumulating Sinking Fund without the written authority of the Treasury."—(*Mr. G. C. T. Bartley.*)

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and question proposed—
"That the Clause be read a second time."

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): I am not at all disposed to blame my honourable friend for having brought this subject before the Committee. It is a subject of great importance, and one to which I know he has given very great attention. Certainly his remarks more than corroborate what I ventured to lay before Parliament as to the extreme difficulties surrounding the investment of Savings Banks deposits owing to the high price of Consols. But, Sir, I trust the Committee will not be disposed to enter upon any lengthy debate upon the Sinking Fund, and for two reasons. In the first place, I think it must be clear to all of us, including my honourable friend, that it would be impossible to deal with this great question within the limits of his clause, which I do not like to criticise, because I believe he has only placed it on the Paper in order to call attention to the matter. My honourable friend's object appears to be to abolish the terminable annuities set up by this Bill, and no longer to continue the purchase of Consols with the repayments of capital made from time to time, but to invest those repayments in loans to India, the Crown colonies, and to local authorities. In fact, my honourable friend's proposal is that instead of paying off our own debt, we should pay other people's debt, and in that way build up a fund which we should hold until Consols come to par, and we are able to redeem Consols with that fund. But, Sir, we may not be able to realise the sum so built up. I have already stated that the Indian Government, to my knowledge, would not be willing to borrow money in this way from us with the obligation of paying us at a fixed time. Therefore, Sir, I must say that so far as I am at present advised, I do not think the proposal of my honourable friend is at all feasible with regard to the Sinking Fund. I think it would be much better to go on with our present system of cancelling Consols through terminable annuities, and not to attempt to deal with the Sinking Fund in the manner my honourable friend proposes. My honourable friend then turns to the Savings Bank deposits, and suggests that in future they should be invested in loans to local

authorities, the Crown colonies, and India. I would venture to point out to the Committee that, as a matter of fact, at the present time we do invest those deposits in loans to local authorities through the Local Loans Fund, which is guaranteed by the Consolidated Fund. Only two years ago Parliament agreed to a reduction in the rate of interest charged on such loans, so that they are now made on terms which have proved very much more attractive to local authorities than before. I am now examining the terms on which these loans are made with a view to see if we cannot make them still more attractive. I confess I see no reason, except, perhaps, on the ground of some local interest which may be better imagined than described, why towns like Liverpool or other great towns in the country should prefer to go into the money market for loans. I think the Committee will see, as far as the use of Savings Bank deposits in loans to local authorities is concerned, it may be done, and is being done, through the machinery I have described just as well as it would be through the machinery proposed by my honourable friend. He also proposed that Savings Bank deposits should be lent to the Crown colonies. Well, I have a Bill before the House which I hope will become law this year, by which, through machinery similar to that of the Local Loans Fund, loans may be made to the Crown colonies under proper safeguards. India has the power to borrow on her own account. But I see no reason why the same process should not be extended to India. It is a perfectly fair subject for consideration whether, in the case of India, the National Debt Commissioners may not be authorised to lend direct to India. But I would venture to point out to my honourable friend that I have already undertaken that certain inquiries should be made, and I would suggest that this is the way, and the only way, in which this question can be usefully approached. Although I daresay competent opinion upon it may be very valuable, further discussion now would lead to no practical result, because nobody—not even my honourable friend—desires that this clause should be adopted in an Act of Parliament.

Question put and negatived.

*MR. HUBBARD (Lambeth, Brixton) said the substance of the Amendment he

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rose to propose was submitted for consideration on the introduction of the Death Duties in 1894, and had already received a very strong measure of support from all sides of the House. It appealed to the first principles of justice, and he commended it to the consideration of the Government. A good deal of the legislation of the present day was directed towards inducing the working classes to save, largely against their will, and he could not but think it would be equally advantageous to facilitate saving in the case of the income-tax paying class, more especially when that saving went directly into the pockets of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It seemed to him desirable to do anything that would diminish the unpopularity of a tax. It could not be doubted that the Estate Duty was felt as a hardship in many cases, and that the severity of the incidence was very often met by processes very well known to Members of the House. In two recent cases very large properties had escaped Estate Duty altogether. The chief grievance lay in the fact that it was impossible for a man to make provision for the Estate Duty without the sum being aggregated with his estate. This was altogether an unfair state of things, and it was especially hard when the effect of a man's prevision was only to raise his estate into the next class, and cause the whole to be assessed at a higher rate of duty. He thought the Government would do well to take it into consideration and see whether they could not do something to redress what he believed was an admitted injustice. The principle of the clause had been accepted by very high authorities. In the Debate of 1894 the present Chancellor of the Exchequer supported it in the warmest terms, and though the then Chancellor of the Exchequer resisted the proposal, he intimated his readiness to consider any scheme by which a sum set apart for Death Duties should be inalienable. Having, therefore, accepted the principle, what was the objection to carry it out? It could only be the official one—loss to the revenue. He did not think the question ought to be considered from that standpoint. The greater the loss the greater evidently was the hardship, and the greater the need for remedy. He believed, however, the loss could not represent a very large sum, because probably not more than twenty per cent. of the ordinary taxpayers would

avail themselves of the proposed insurance. But he would go further, and say that he believed there would be actually no loss to the revenue, because the whole essence of his suggestion was that an extra effort should be made by the testator to set aside this sum. As far as he could see, there was no other way in which a man could provide for insurance and escape aggregation. He, therefore, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether this was not a case of injustice which might be remedied with very little trouble and no sacrifice to the revenue, and whether he could not see his way, both as an act of justice and as an assistance towards carrying out the law, to adopt the clause he had the honour to move.

New Clause—

"Upon the decease of any person who during his lifetime has expressly provided by insurance or otherwise for payment of the Estate Duty on any property passing at his death, and to that end has appropriated or set apart a sum of money so as to form an inalienable provision for payment of the said duty or any part thereof to the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue, the sum so appropriated or set apart shall not be aggregated with the rest of the estate and shall not be liable for payment of Estate Duty."—(*Mr. Hubbard.*)

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the Clause be read a second time."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: My honourable friend is quite justified in quoting the remarks I made on the subject in 1894, and I have always had the greatest sympathy with the idea underlying the clause with a view to the encouragement of saving. My honourable friend does not allude to a precedent he might fairly have used, the exemption of insurance premiums from income-tax. Sir, I have looked very carefully into the matter with the desire of making a proposal to the House, but such consideration as I have been able to give to it has not enabled me to make a proposal of the kind. Let me put to the Committee one of the great difficulties in this matter. Of course there must be a loss to the revenue in any scheme of this kind, from the fact that the sum set aside would, under the proposal of my honourable friend, pay no Death Duty, and would not be subject to aggregation with the rest of the property, and no doubt

the richest men would take most advantage of the clause if it were adopted. But the difficulty in the matter is mainly this—the impossibility of making any sum of the kind inalienable, as my honourable friend suggests. I will take the case of a man of great wealth who is, we will say, thirty or thirty-five, in the prime of life, and lives to a great age. When he is thirty-five he may set aside a sum under this proposal for the payment of the Death Duties. Long before he dies he may become insolvent. Well, are his creditors to have no claim on the sum set aside?

MR. HUBBARD: Not if it were inalienable.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: It could not be inalienable, there being nothing upon which Death Duty would have to be paid; and why should the creditors be deprived of their right to a sum set aside to meet a contingency that cannot arise? Take another case. A man may not be insolvent, but he may be very much poorer when he dies than when he set aside his sum. Is the whole sum still to be left inalienable, or merely the sum applicable to the Death Duties on the property he leaves behind him? Take another case. A man may be very fond of his heir, but that heir may die and some distant relative may succeed to the property about whom the owner cares nothing and may desire to make other use of the money than to benefit the successor with whom he has no sympathy. I have mentioned these cases, because they are some of the difficulties in the application of the principle for which my honourable friend contends. After all, I submit to the Committee that it would be perfectly possible for a man if he trusts his heir to do what my honourable friend desires, namely, relieve him of the Death Duties without any alteration in the law at all. Of course the presumption is that he will trust his heir; if he did not trust his heir he would not desire to relieve him of the Death Duties. It is perfectly possible for him now, if he chooses, to make over to his heir a certain sum of money for the payment of the Death Duties which would not be liable to duty or to aggregation. I am quite convinced that if my honourable friend were to consult an astute lawyer he would devise means to carry this out. Although,

as I have said, I have great sympathy with the idea, I cannot possibly accept the clause now, because it would involve a considerable loss of revenue and I do not at present see my way to overcome the objections that arise.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): The hon. Member who proposes the Amendment has very truly said that in 1894 I, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressed a desire to meet this case so far as it could be met, and everybody must desire, in reference to this tax, to make it as little oppressive as possible. When the suggestion was made in 1894 I stated, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer now states, that it was impossible to deal with insurance alone, for that is only one method by which a man may make this provision. I also said that if it were possible to deal with the matter on the footing of inalienable savings I should be extremely glad. An honest attempt was made to find some method of dealing with the question on that basis, and there was a proposal like to the one made by the honourable Member. I went into the matter with very able assistance, and found all the difficulties which have been alluded to by the honourable Member as to securing these alienable funds. The fact is people are not fond of tying up property in this inalienable manner. There are many instances where it cannot be done, and where it is not likely to be done. Therefore, I can only confirm what the right honourable Gentleman has said. Every effort was made to meet what is certainly a plausible claim, but we at that time were unable to find a method of solving the difficulty. I understand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not been more successful since that time, and undoubtedly to deal with the matter in the manner now proposed would involve great loss of revenue.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said that on examining the pith of the Amendment he was forced to side with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the opinion which he had expressed that evening in preference to the view set forth by him in 1894. He would see that there were immense practical difficulties in the way of the adoption of the Amendment. He sympathised with his honourable friend who had brought it

forward, but he respectfully suggested to him that it was not one which could meet the existing difficulty.

MR. HOARE (Norwich) supported the Amendment, which involved a question in which he took very great interest. It seemed to him very hard that if a man by his thrift endeavoured to provide for the payment of his Death Duties he should be fined for so doing, for that was exactly what it came to. If an estate was worth a little under £50,000, and he made provision for his Death Duties, his estate would be fined nearly £400; in the next scale, nearly £600; in the next, over £1,000; and in the next, upwards of £15,000. Having always endeavoured to encourage thrift, he thought that the House ought in this case to try in every way to further the cause. The injustice complained of required a remedy, and he was glad that his right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that he was prepared to consider it. He knew that there were great difficulties, but he hoped that the right honourable Gentleman's ability and experience would enable him to overcome them.

*MR. SPICER (Monmouth Boroughs) said he had intense sympathy with the principle of the Amendment, and he was extremely glad to hear that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was willing to look into the matter again. He seemed to him to argue the question almost entirely from the standpoint of those families who made their property over to their eldest sons. He thought the present system came with far greater hardship upon those classes of society where the property was usually divided equally amongst the different members of the family, and he could not think that the difficulties which had been referred to both by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the late Chancellor of the Exchequer could not be dealt with by some of the able advisers that there were at the Treasury. He quite admitted some of the difficulties, but it seemed to him that the proposal gave them a legitimate way of providing for Death Duties, and was a contrast to the illegitimate of evading the Death Duties which, if they were rightly informed, were now being made use of by some of the great families of the land—an action which, he ventured to say, had created a feeling of very deep resentment.

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These great families maintained their position very largely because they had administered their estates on the principle of *noblesse oblige*; but if once it came to be realised by the mass of the people that those classes were trying to evade their fair responsibilities to the State, it would create a feeling of bitterness which would not end there. He, for one, looked forward with real concern upon those who had carried out these practices, because he believed they were acting distinctly against their own interests and general welfare. The plan proposed seemed to suggest a legitimate way of trying to meet the difficulties, and he trusted the Chancellor of the Exchequer would find, with the able assistance he had at the Treasury, some method by which those who wished to make provision in the way proposed might do so without loss to the State, and, at the same time, to the advantage of those who came after them.

SIR R. T. REID (Dumfries Burghs) remarked that neither in the debate of 1894 nor during the present debate had any honourable Member suggested a method by which provision for meeting the Death Duties could be made inalienable. There must be a fund which the testator could not alienate, and which his creditors could not alienate, and which at his death must be exclusively applied for the purpose of paying off the Duty. There was, indeed, no way of doing it unless the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself opened an insurance office, and received premiums against the payment of the duties. The consequence of that would be that if a man died leaving nothing, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be entitled to keep the premium. In that sense, and in that sense alone, could they make any inalienable provision. Otherwise, if the Amendment passed, it must remain a dead letter.

*CAPTAIN PRETYMAN (Suffolk, Woodbridge) said he had consulted several experts on the question, and he found that the difficulties of making provision for the sum inalienable were insurmountable. The right honourable Gentleman who had just sat down had said that there was no other way available than by the Chancellor of the Exchequer opening an insurance office. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in a generous

mood there was one simple way of doing it, namely, when the duty was assessed on the property, and before the duty was actually charged, to deduct the sum payable as duty from the corpus on which the duty itself was payable.

*MR. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston) said that the case which had been mentioned of a person with an estate of £48,000, who, through saving enough to pay the Death Duties, was fined because the estate was raised to over £50,000, was an illustration of the fact that there must necessarily be some difficulty and injustice when a hard and fast line was drawn between the incidence of one rate of taxation and another. The question was whether they should allow a man by any arrangement in his lifetime to shield a portion of the property which he left to his heirs from the Death Duty.

MR. HUBBARD said that in view of the promise of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to look into the question, he did not propose to press the Amendment to a Division. He did not think the arguments which had been brought forward against his proposal were by any means unanswerable, and he failed to see any insuperable difficulty in making the fund inalienable. If the right honourable Gentleman went into the question with a real desire to redress what he believed was a recognised grievance, he would find a way out of the difficulty.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthen, W.), on behalf of Mr. Lawson Walton (Leeds, S.), moved the insertion of the following clause:—

"The provisions contained in Section 98 of the Stamp Act of 1891 in reference to the expression 'policy of insurance against accident' shall extend to and include policies in insurance or indemnity against liability incurred by employers in consequence of claims made upon them by workmen who have sustained personal injury, when the annual premium on such policy does not exceed £1."

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I will accept the proposal.

The clause was read a second time and added to the Bill.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES, in moving a new clause repealing certain sections of

the Act of 1894, said he did not intend to touch upon the principle of the Finance Act of 1894, in the discussion of which they had spent some happy months, though he might remark that one-tenth of the estates that paid the duty paid nine-tenths of the old duty, and that under the Act one £500 might pay thirty-seven times as much as another. The effect of the Act was beginning to be seen. It had disappointed everybody, and nobody more than his right honourable friend the Member for West Monmouth, since the Act had not produced anything like the sum anticipated. Allusion had been made to evasions by highly-placed persons. It was a case of "diamond cut diamond"; but, after all, he did not call them evasions, but avoidances of the Act, which the Act allowed. But that portion of the Act which had always seemed to him to be particularly small, foolish, unnecessary, and indefensible was the Settlement Estate Duty. It was unnecessary for him to read the clause he proposed. It touched nothing else in the Act but this duty, and did not infringe the principle. The Settlement Estate Duty produced but an infinitesimal part of the total Estate Duty. The total Estate Duty for the year amounted to £15,600,000, and the Settlement Estate Duty produced only £330,000, or one-forty-sixth of the total Estate Duty. Moreover, according to the Report of the Inland Revenue Commissioners for 1894-95, the Settlement Estate Duty gave rise to a great number of difficult questions productive of greater complication than any other provision of the Finance Act of 1894, and remarkable testimony was given on the part of those whose duty it was to carry the Act into effect. It was largely because of these difficulties and complications that he proposed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should relieve himself of the burden of collecting the tax, more especially as it produced relatively so small an amount. He was afraid the Settlement Duty was imposed primarily on account of the animosity of the right honourable Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth, who made a set against settled property. If they looked into the Act, however, they would find that settled property, instead of being at a disadvantage, was, compared with other property, at a very great advantage. He had heard remarks about knocking the bottom out of the Act. There were,

Mr. Gibson Bowles.

however, cases where there was bottom in the Act, and where the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Law Officers had endeavoured to put a false bottom in. In proof of this there was the *Beach* case. This matter was of great importance. The total amount involved in settled property was 41 millions out of 274 millions, or nearly one-sixteenth. The whole of the Estate Duty was 12 millions, while the duty on settled property was two millions. In consequence of the decisions which had been given as a true interpretation of the Act, they would find that all of the Estate Duty of two millions was imperilled besides the Settlement Duty of £300,000. The Settlement Duty was supposed to guard the revenue and afford compensation, but the cases proved that it was no guard, while the compensation was inadequate. He ventured to implore the Chancellor of the Exchequer—though he did not suppose the right honourable Gentleman would agree to it—to abolish Settlement Duty.

New clause—

"The following Sections of the Finance Act, 1894—namely Section 5, Sub-Section 1, paragraphs A and B; and Sub-section 4; Section 16, Sub-section 3; Section 17; and section 21, Sub-section 4, so far as they enact or relate to Settlement Estate Duty, are hereby repealed."
—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the clause be read a second time."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH said that he would not follow his honourable friend all through his argument, but it seemed to him that if all his proposals were carried there would be very little of the Act of 1894 left. But the honourable Gentleman's proposals answered themselves. Settlement Estate Duty was imposed as a compensation for the advantages which settled property enjoyed of paying once only during the settlement. It was only a duty of 1 per cent., and considering the great advantages which settled estate enjoyed, it was right and just that that should be paid.

SIR R. T. REID was not going to say anything more about Estate Duty after what had been said by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He, however, wanted to say a word on a matter cognate to it. The right

hon. Gentleman had made some observations in regard to the advantageous position occupied by settled property under the Act as it stood. There was no doubt that since the decision of the House of Lords, settled property enjoyed an unduly favoured position. He was one of those who did not agree with the opinion which had been adopted by the House of Lords. It was a very serious thing, not only for the revenue, but also for the cause of just administration. If the decision of the House of Lords remained, and if nothing was done by Statute to alter in some degree the effect of their interpretation of the Act, it would be possible, by a succession of settlements made within a few days or hours of death, for large masses of property in this country to escape the Death Duty altogether—he meant from generation to generation. It was not his business to enter into the feelings of hon. Gentlemen opposite as to the principle of the Act. He knew some thought this a harsh tax. But this was clear, that no Act could go on being administered, and could claim to be a just Act, which was so interpreted that they could have great masses of property constantly escaping the tax, while all other property, mostly of poor people, was subjected to the tax. He could not help expressing the hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would see whether something could not be done for the purpose of strengthening the liability of settled property to pay a full share of taxation.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said that in drawing up this provision it had been stated he had been actuated by hostility to settled property. He had never had any hostility to settled property as such. What he had always contended was, that settled property should be dealt with fairly, on the same footing as other property. Up to the passing of the Act in 1894 it had escaped from all liability to which other property was subjected. If they had a community sensitive that a particular form of property—and that property generally the possession of rich people—was dealt with on a different footing from other property, they would have that feeling of dissatisfaction that arose from unequal and unfair taxation. The intention of the additional Settlement Duty was a compensation for a very great concession that was made to settled

property. He had no hesitation in saying that it was an experiment in compensation, and it was an extremely useful one. He had now come to the conclusion that the compensation was not half high enough, and that any change that was to be made should be in the direction of bringing settled property into line with the rest of the property in the country. He had no doubt that, by the decision referred to, settled property was conspicuously exempt from the burdens on other property, and that in a few years it would have to be done away with. The 1 per cent. duty did not in the least compensate for the exemption which settled property enjoyed with other property.

*CAPTAIN PRETYMAN said, in regard to the new clause proposed by the honourable Member for Lynn Regis, he could hardly follow his curious argument, that because settled property was better off than other property, it ought to be relieved further. However, the right honourable and learned Gentleman opposite had apparently lost his head in regard to this case. He assumed quite unwarrantably that because the decision of the House of Lords had gone against him on the Beach Case it would also be against him on all other points. He hoped there would be cases where the right honourable Gentleman would be more fortunate. If the decision given by the House of Lords implied that settled property could be handed over *in extremis*, he would support the Chancellor of the Exchequer in an amendment of the law. He absolutely concurred in the opinion expressed by the right honourable Gentleman opposite, that both settled property and other property should be treated equally, but he did not agree with the statement of the right honourable Gentleman that the decision in the Beach case, so far as it went, placed settled property in a different position from unsettled property.

SIR R. T. REID differed from the honourable Gentleman, and he would tell in a sentence why. Under the decision in the Beach case, one of two things might happen. Duty might be escaped by alienation at any moment before death, or at all events, if that were a point which had not been decided, there could be evasion of the payment of

duty if the residue of the life interest was sold at its then value, say by a man who was only going to live a week.

*CAPTAIN PRETYMAN said that was a legal point which the right honourable and learned Gentleman was better able to deal with than he was. He took his stand on the broad ground that under the decision of the Beach case, settled property which had been transferred to the next in settlement more than 12 months before death was clear of Estate Duty. They were not entitled to anticipate any other decision until it occurred. Would the right honourable and learned Gentleman tell him that free unsettled property could not escape duty by being transferred 12 months before death?

SIR R. T. REID said he was loth to interrupt. It was perfectly true that free property could be alienated with safety more than 12 months before death. The difference consisted in this, that in order to escape the Death Duty on free property it was necessary to alienate the whole *corpus*, the whole interest in the property, but in order to escape the Death Duty in the case of settled property it was only necessary to dispose of the remaining part of the life interest, which was a very insignificant portion of the entire value.

*CAPTAIN PRETYMAN said he was again sorry to disagree with the right honourable and learned Gentleman on a legal point, but he must again say that the decision in the Beach case did not go so far as that. He held that so far as the Beach decision was concerned the two classes of property were on the same footing. At any rate, if they were not they ought to be. He could not see his way to support his honourable friend's Amendment, but at the same time, as the law now stood he could not think how honourable Gentlemen opposite could maintain that settled property was placed at a greater disadvantage than free property.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said he did not propose to press the Amendment, but if his honourable and gallant friend once opened the door to a revision of the law affecting settled property he would be called upon by honourable Gentlemen opposite to support an increase in the valuation of real property as charged with duty for 17 and 18 years, which the

Sir R. T. Reid.

Inland Revenue now got when it was sold, to 30, 40, or 50 years' purchase, which the owner of property often got in a settlement. He begged leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES next proposed a new clause for the purpose of removing the present limitation to the aggregation of property. He said that under Section 4 of the Finance Act of 1894, any property in which the deceased never had an interest could not be aggregated. The same section provided that if by any disposition not made by the deceased property passed to another person that should not be aggregated. But, if it passed to the wife, husband, lineal ancestor, or to a descendant, it was aggregated, and Estate Duty charged upon it. This was unjust to the widow and the orphan, who were unjustly taxed as compared to the stranger. It was that exemption to the exception which he wished to remove by means of his Amendment. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would see his way to accept it.

New Clause—

"Section four of The Finance Act, 1894, shall be read and have effect as if after the words 'never had an interest or which' the word 'passes' were inserted; as if after the words 'not made by the deceased' the words 'passes immediately on the death of the deceased to some person other than the wife or husband or a lineal ancestor or a lineal descendant of the deceased' were omitted; and as if all the words after the words 'shall not be aggregated with any other property' to the end of the section were omitted."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the Clause be read a second time."

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH did not think that such a proposal could possibly be accepted. To his mind it would go much too far, much farther than his honourable friend desired.

Question put, and negatived.

LORD ALWYNE COMPTON (Beds, Biggleswade) said he had an Amendment on the Paper dealing with Section 4 of the Finance Act of 1894, restricting the exemptions thereby given to non-

lineals from the principle of aggregation, and extending certain exemptions to persons taking benefits under separate dispositions. He was perfectly clear as to the injustice caused by these exemptions, but it appeared some doubt had arisen as to what the tendency, or full effect of the words in his proposed Amendment would be. That being so, and in view of the great perplexity of the question, he would postpone the matter until the Report Stage.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH said he would be obliged if the noble Lord did so. The proposal on the Paper opened up a most complicated question.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that the next three clauses, of which he moved the insertion at this part of the Bill, must be dealt with as one; and he felt so strongly on the matter that if he could only get a teller, he should go to a Division. The effect of these three clauses would be to abolish the presumption that was made by the Finance Act of 1894, that everything a man did within twelve months of his death was done in defraud of the Act.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said that that was not done under the Act of 1894; it was done by a former Act—that of 1881.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that by the Act of 1881 the presumption was applied to personal property during three months before death; by the Act of 1889 it was extended to personal property within twelve months of death; by the Act of 1894 the presumption of twelve months was extended to all property whatever, and the right honourable Gentleman could not say this was not done by the Act of 1894. He (the honourable Member for Lynn Regis) must at once admit that the error of persons conceiving this idea of diverting the estate was not due to the right hon. Member for West Monmouth. It was due to the First Lord of the Admiralty, whom he had always considered to be a better sailor than a financier. Originally it was due to Mr. Gladstone, but it was carried out by the sailor-financier. The effect was to assume that every gift made

by a person within twelve months of his death was fraudulent, and intended to evade the duty. That might be so, and in such an instance he should not only charge the duty, but, in addition, impose a heavy penalty. But they must show that there was an attempt to evade the Act, when in many cases there was no such intention, and that the gift was made *bona fide*, and with no idea of impending death. Observe the humour of the thing. Every shilling a man put into the plate at church, every remission he made to a tenant of rent, every little present he made to his wife, say, of a brooch or a ring, every gift of any kind to anybody, was not a gift completed, but was only a gift, minus the duty, until twelve months had elapsed. He could give extraordinary instances of the hardships of this reading of the law. But he would take one connected with this nefarious assumption in favour of the State. If a person left £29,000 of his own, and £20,000 passed on his death, under his father's settlement, and if he made a gift of £5,000 within the year, the total of these sums, £54,000, was aggregated, and the rate of duty was charged at 5 per cent. instead of 3, 4, or 4½ per cent., so that the children paid more on the £20,000 they got because of the £5,000 they did not get. The executor was bound to include in the account every gift made within twelve months—every shilling in the church collection plate, every token of affection, every ring, but he was not bound to pay duty. The liability was put on the donee. The executor was absolutely prohibited from paying the duty except by the request of the donee. If, therefore, the donee had gone abroad, or had spent the gift, the duty was not recoverable from him, and the executor was not liable—in fact, no one was liable. The Act, in fact, was full of injustices, absurdities, complications, and departures from the principle of the Act itself. The only right and just method was to make no presumption either way. He would further point out that the amount of duty was not very large. The amount of *inter vivos* donations in 1897–8 was £933,000, with a duty of about £45,000, collected in order to maintain the entirely false assumption that everything a man did within twelve months before his death was to evade the Act. He begged to move the addition of the first of his proposed clauses.

New Clause—

"Section two, Sub-section (3), of The Finance Act, 1894, is hereby amended as follows: The description of property in Sub-section (3) shall be construed as if the words 'more than twelve months before his death' were omitted therefrom."

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the clause be now read a second time."

The other two proposed clauses referred to were as follows:—

"Section two, sub-section (1), paragraph (c), of The Finance Act, 1894, is hereby amended as follows: the description of property marked (c) shall be construed as if the words in section eleven, sub-section (1), of The Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1889, 'be read as if the word 'twelve' were substituted for the word 'three' therein, and the said description of property shall' were omitted therefrom."

"Section thirty-eight, sub-section (2), paragraph (a), of The Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1881, is hereby amended as follows: the description of property marked (a) shall be construed as if all the words in paragraph (a) after the words 'one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one' were omitted therefrom."—*(Mr. Gibson Bowles.)*

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH said that his reply to his honourable friend was that as he, year after year, raised this question, and repeated proposals of the

same kind, he could do nothing but repeat what he had already said against the proposals. His honourable friend admitted that there might be such a thing as fraudulent attempts to evade the Acts, but he said that we ought to discover that by some kind of divination. He did not believe that we would ever discover anything in that way. He did not believe that it would be possible to inflict the penalty suggested. Three months was the period suggested, but that was found to be too short, and twelve months was accepted with practical unanimity as the period within which donations might not be made. He believed that if three months were accepted the door would be opened to fraud, and to the evasion of the Act in other ways.

MR. BUTCHER (York) believed that under the clause as it stood every shilling given during the year preceding death would be brought into account. If they accepted his honourable friend's Amendment the door would be opened to a very large number of cases of evasion, and the amount of duty thus fraudulently evaded would be very large indeed.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Aye, 1; Noes, 164. (Division List No. 142.)

AY.

Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)

TELLERS FOR THE AY—Mr.
Gibson Bowles and Mr.
Alexander Cross.

NOES.

Aird, John
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, W. (Newc. under Lyme)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. A. D. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blakiston-Houston, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George

Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clough, Walter Owen
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Colville, John
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cruddas, William Donaldson
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)

Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Daly, James
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, William Theodore
Duckworth, James
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dunn, Sir William
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flower, Ernest

Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hassell, Walter
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hill, Arthur (Down, W.)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn
 Leng, Sir John
 Long, Rt. Hon. Wlfr. (Liverpool)
 Lowe, Francis William

Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'iver, Sir Lewis (Edin. W.)
 M'Killop, James
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 Middlemore, Jhn. Throgmorton
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Grahm. (Bute
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Malley, William
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roys, Clement Molyneux

Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
 Thorburn, Walter
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Wallace, Robert (Perth)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (I. of Wight
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.
 Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, George
 Young, Commander (Berks., E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he was afraid it now fell upon him to move one Amendment after another. His next Amendment was to restrict the Exchequer and Audit Act of 1866, which had been superseded by subsequent arrangements made by Parliament. Instead of the gross revenues being paid into the Bank of England a great part of them went to local taxation. It seemed to him an extraordinary thing that such an abuse should have cropped up in so short a time. £9,000,000 was put to this purpose. The appropriations in aid he did not propose to deal with, but that part of the Exchequer represented by the Estate Duties was about £2,500,000 this year. He did not suppose that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would express his readiness to accept the clause, but he did trust that the right honourable Gentleman would say that he would take the matter into consideration and bring to an end a method which only made confusion worse confounded.

New Clause—

"The Commissioners of Customs, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and the Postmaster General shall, after the commencement of this Act, notwithstanding any enactment to the contrary, after deduction of the payments

for drawbacks, bounties of the nature of drawbacks, repayments, and discounts, cause the gross revenues of their respective departments to be paid at such times and under such regulations as the Treasury may from time to time prescribe, to accounts to be intitled 'The Account of Her Majesty's Exchequer,' at the Bank of England and at the Bank of Ireland respectively, and all other public moneys payable to the Exchequer shall be paid to the same accounts, and accounts of all such payments shall be rendered to the Comptroller and Auditor-General daily, in such form as the Treasury may prescribe; provided always, that this enactment shall not be construed to prevent the collectors and receivers of the said gross revenues and moneys from cashing, as heretofore, under the authority of any Act or regulation, orders issued for Naval, Military, Revenue, Civil, or other Services, repayable to the Revenue Departments out of the Consolidated Fund or out of moneys provided by Parliament. And provided also that the Treasury may transfer from the said Account of Her Majesty's Exchequer to the Local Taxation Account such sums, under such conditions and at such times as are prescribed by any existing enactment to be paid to the said Local Taxation Account."

—(Mr. Gibson Bowles.)

brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Clause be now read a second time."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH said that even if the views of the honourable Member for Lynn Regis were right, he

did not think, whatever his intention was, that the clause proposed would have the desired effect. He thought that it was premature, and could not accept it.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD ALWYNE COMPTON said the clause which stood in his name was practically identical with a clause which he had moved last year, dealing with an injury which everybody recognised. He did not now propose to move it because the right honourable Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had informed him that he had looked into the matter, and though he admitted that there was a hardship, the right honourable Gentleman did not consider that the suggestion which he (Lord A. Compton) had made met the difficulty. He had been encouraged to proceed, the right honourable Gentleman having pointed out that where property passed through many hands in a short space of time a condition of things might arise in which there would be no property at all. He was hopeful, the evil and hardship having been acknowledged, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would give some explanation and that, if he was not satisfied with the clause as put upon the Paper, he would give some indication upon which a clause might be based another year.

The following is the clause referred to :—

“Where Estate Duty shall have become payable on any death by or on behalf of any person in respect of property to which he shall have become entitled on such death, and such person shall die within the space of eight and a-half years from the date of the death on which the duty shall have become payable, such duty (in this section referred to as ‘the first charge of duty’) shall for the purposes of this section be taken to have become payable by such instalments as are mentioned in section 6, sub-section 8 of The Finance Act, 1894, and if the Estate Duty payable in respect of any property passing on the death of such person (in this section referred to as ‘the second charge of duty’) shall be a sum equal to or less than the total amount of the instalments then to become due, or which by virtue of this section are to be taken as then to become due, of the first charge of duty (hereinafter referred to as the ‘future instalments’), the second charge of duty shall be wholly remitted; but if the amount of such second charge of duty shall exceed the amount of the future instalments, then the amount, which but for this section would have become payable in respect of such second charge of duty, shall be reduced by the amount of the future instalments.”—(Lord A. Compton.)

Sir M. Hicks-Beach.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH expressed his thanks to the noble Lord for the way in which he had brought the matter forward, but said the difficulties of his position had precluded him from dealing with the subject. The duties were practically settled upon a system of averages, and any case where hardship was likely to arise would occur after a long tenure, after which there would probably be a series of quick successions. He regretted his inability to deal with the subject at the present time, but there was extreme difficulty in ear-marking the property as the same property which had paid duty before. He had thoroughly investigated the matter, and in a great many cases into which he had enquired, the alterations of various kinds which had been made in the property had rendered it absolutely impossible for anyone to say the property was the same as that which had already paid duty. It could not well be left to the officers of the Inland Revenue to decide whether it was the same property or not. He mentioned these matters for the consideration of his noble friend, with whom he would be glad to communicate.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) expressed great satisfaction at the fact that no hope had been held out with regard to the Amendment. He remembered that the proposal was carefully considered in 1894, and it was then found impossible that any proposal could be arrived at which would do justice to everybody. The effect of the clause would be to reduce the Death Duties, from duties falling in at death, to periodical duties, and that appeared to him to be a vital objection. He also considered the clause impracticable. He thought the noble Lord had exaggerated the position when he said that the Death Duties could destroy property. With regard to the remote legatee he should be considered a fortunate person rather than one to whom injustice had been done, because the chances of his coming into the property at all were very remote.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester) thought that what had to be considered was the welfare of the person who lived on his estates. Nothing, in his opinion, could be worse for the land than the absenteeism that ensued under these circumstances. He had hoped that the right honourable Gentleman would have

recognised the substantial justice of the appeal which had been made, and would have given the Committee some hope that he would himself grapple with the question. When the Finance Act was passed, it was attacked on more than one of its details, and more especially upon this detail, and all the right honourable Gentleman had said was that it was not his duty to point out how the hardship should be remedied, but he admitted that the hardship existed. The whole system of Death Duties was extremely difficult to work, and in its initiation was unjust. The revenue which was raised upon these capital values ought to be raised by a very different method.

CAPTAIN PRETYMAN thought the main question was how to deal with a hardship when it arose. The Committee had been told that this duty was based on a system of averages, but he thought that where a hardship was made manifest it was entitled to be dealt with on its merits.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE said the object of the clause he now proposed to move was to give some small relief to the owners of tithe and tithe-rent charges. The reason for its being moved was that it was the only declaration upon which relief could be obtained for a particular class which suffered great injustice under the Bill. The terrible state of things which existed in regard to this had been brought before the House on a number of occasions, but this was a matter of taxation which did come under the Finance Bill. He submitted that the clergy ought to be relieved in the matter of Land Tax. The Government had given assurances that something would be done in the present Session, but the Session was growing old and nothing had been done, though he still had hopes. The Report of the Royal Commission which investigated the matter had shown the position in which the tithe rent owners stood, and showed that they were grossly overtaxed. They could not go on for ever without raising their voices that justice should be done, and he hoped, and felt quite sure, that the matter would not now be long delayed.

New Clause—

"An assessment of the Land Tax made after the passing of this Act for a Land Tax parish in

any year during the continuance of the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, shall not assess or charge any tithes, tithe rent-charge, or modus payable to any person having the cure of souls within the parish at more than one-half of the annual value at which such tithes, tithe rent-charge, or modus would be assessed or charged if this Act had not been passed: and any amount of Land Tax not collected by reason of this section shall be remitted from the unredeemed quota of the Land Tax for that year."

—(*Viscount Cranborne.*)

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and question proposed—

"That the Clause be now read a second time."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH drew attention to the fact that all those clergy whose incomes did not exceed £160 a year were relieved from Land Tax altogether, whilst those whose incomes did not exceed £400 per annum were relieved to the extent of half the tax. In regard to the particular grievance to which it was desired to call the attention of the Committee, he would only say that a measure dealing with the subject was actually in course of preparation; and, although it would not be in his charge, as it related to a rating matter, he hoped that at no distant date it would be laid before the House.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) desired to express the opinion that any attempt to convert the Budget into a Clergy Relief Bill was a matter that should be resisted to the utmost. He thought that the clergy were ill-advised to allow this question to be raised in their name, while at the same time they were making public appeals for aid.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

*SIR SAMUEL MONTAGU (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel), in moving the insertion of a new clause, said the object of the first portion of it was to place our traders on an equality with competitors in France and Belgium, where the stamp duty was precisely the same as he wished to see it fixed. In Germany there was no such stamp duty, and in Holland it only amounted to 1d. for any amount. He could not ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to knock off the tax altogether, but he was confident that city men who traded in bills would be quite content if they were placed on an equality with

their competitors in France and Belgium. Twenty or forty years ago the business done by means of these foreign bills was very much greater. They were drawn mainly from India, China, and America against produce.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH (interrupting): I am quite willing to accept the Clause which the honourable Baronet has on the Paper.

New Clause—

“(1) The duty payable under the Stamp Act, 1891, on bills of exchange drawn and expressed to be payable out of the United Kingdom, when actually paid or endorsed or in any manner negotiated in the United Kingdom, shall, where the amount of the money for which the Bill is drawn exceeds £50, be reduced so as to be—(a) where the amount exceeds £50 and does not exceed £100, 6d.; and (b) where the amount exceeds £100, 6d. for every £100, and also for any fractional part of £100 of that amount. (2) The stamp duty chargeable under the Stamp Act, 1891, on bills of exchange expressed to be payable at a period not exceeding three days after date or sight shall be 1d., in lieu of the duty now chargeable thereon; and accordingly the first heading, Bill of Exchange, in the schedule to that Act, shall be read as if the words ‘or within three days after date or sight’ were contained therein, after the word ‘presentation.’”—(*Sir Samuel Montagu.*)

brought up and read the first and second time and agreed to.

Bill reported.

Bill, as amended, re-committed, in respect of Clauses 2 and 3, and a new Clause, for Monday next.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

SPIRITS IN BOTTLE.

1. That, in addition to the Duties of Customs now payable on spirits imported into Great Britain or Ireland, there shall be charged, levied, and paid the duty following (that is to say):—

Spirits in bottle (including perfumed spirits, and liqueurs, cordials, mixtures, and other preparations in bottle entered in such a manner as to indicate that the strength is not to be tested) the liquid gallon, One Shilling.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Resolution read a second time.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) said he hoped the
Sir Samuel Montagu.

Chancellor of the Exchequer would, either that night or at some later stage of the Bill, be able to place the Committee in possession of information with regard to the probable effect of the new surtax upon bottled spirits. They already had that information with regard to bottled wines, but he would like to point out that, in regard to spirits, it was the practice of the Customs to lump together all spirits imported in casks and in bottle, as well as all perfumes coming in in the same way. No doubt there was a very considerable quantity of high-class spirit which came in in bottle, but he imagined that but very little cheap spirit came in in the same form. He did not complain in the least of the amount of the surtax, because, after all, it only represented a very small proportion of the value of the article on which it was imposed, an article which was a high-priced luxury. Let them take, for instance, Eau de Cologne. That was a high-priced commodity, and the effect of the new duty would probably be to induce the house which sent large quantities of it to this country to establish itself and bottle the perfume in England. The same might result with regard to high-class liqueurs, Chartreuse for example. He imagined the selling price of that did not fall far short of 20s. per imperial quart, so that the surtax was comparatively small. But it would have a considerable bearing on the course of trade, and at the same time it would protect the spirit against crude imitations which were manufactured in this country. He pointed out the other night that this tax would specially hit the brandy trade of France, and would considerably interfere with the importation of high-class cognacs from the Charente district in small parcels, a district which was already hit by the increased wine duty. They had, however, no figures before them upon which they could discuss the matter now, and he therefore repeated his appeal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give them the statistics at some later stage of the Bill.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had sought to justify the imposition of additional taxes on wine on the ground that if deprived of that source of revenue he did not know how he could make up his deficit. But the other day

he (Mr. Robertson) ventured to point out a source of unknown magnitude and as yet untouched. He on that occasion asked the right honourable Gentleman to be good enough to direct his officials to make an investigation with a view to ascertaining what would be the financial effect of increasing the duties on the retailers of wine, spirits, and beer; what, in fact, would be the effect of raising the licence duties to their full annual value. The right honourable Gentleman replied that that depended on the Licensing Commission, which had taken evidence on the point, and until the Report was presented he did not think it was for him to interfere. That answer surprised him, for having examined the reports published of the Commissioner's proceedings he had been unable to find any evidence at all bearing upon that important question. He had not put the question with reference to any temperance issues but solely on financial grounds. There had been no doubt suggestions about high licences as a mode of temperance reform, but with that he had nothing to do; all he asked was an estimate of the effect of raising licence duties to their full annual value. He would again press the Chancellor of the Exchequer to direct his officials, who were the only persons who could do so, to frame this estimate. He had intended to raise the point by an Amendment on the Finance Bill, but had good reason to suppose that that would be out of order, as it involved an increase of duty. His proposal briefly was that the increased duty should fall not on the consumer, but on the licence holder, who now paid absurdly low duties, while his mere liability to pay them constituted a valuable asset. He wanted to ascertain the real value of the asset. He might remind them that the London County Council had had to buy up a licence recently at a cost of £11,000; they were going to drop the licence and saddle the ratepayers with the expense. The utmost a retailer of spirits, &c., had to pay as licence was £60 a year; yet the licences were so valuable. Was it right to leave the duty so absurdly low? Why not make the licencees pay instead of putting the burden indirectly on the consumers of the commodity? The present was not a defensible position, for many millions a year was being presented to the holders of the monopoly.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The present system on which the charge for licences is made is no doubt not a good one, and very possibly in the case of the more valuable houses the duty ought to be increased. But I had good reason for the answer I gave the honourable Gentleman the other day. I am informed on good authority that evidence on this subject has been taken, and naturally the Licensing Commission may be expected to deal with it in their Report. Under these circumstances, I do not think it possible or right to institute an independent inquiry by the officers of the Inland Revenue. I may remind the honourable Member that the yield from the duty referred to does not go to the Exchequer at all, but to the relief of local taxation, and I have a shrewd suspicion that the local authorities would put in a strong claim for any increased sum likely to be derived from it. With regard to the question raised by the right honourable Member for the Forest of Dean, when I come to the discussion of the subject in Committee I will give what information I can on the points he has raised.

Resolution agreed to.

STAMP DUTIES.

2. Resolved, That in lieu of the Stamp Duties mentioned in the resolutions numbered 2 and 4, relating to Stamp Duties, agreed to by the House on the thirteenth day of April, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, there shall be charged the following Stamp Duties, namely—

- (1) On all foreign and Colonial marketable securities transferable by delivery which are not at present chargeable with Stamp Duty, and which are negotiated in the United Kingdom after the first day of August, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine; and
- (2) on any instrument to bearer by means of which any share or stock of any company or body of persons formed or established out of the United Kingdom is, after the first day of August, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, negotiated in the United Kingdom,

a Stamp Duty of one shilling for every ten pounds, and also for any fractional part of ten pounds, in the case of a marketable security of the money thereby secured, and in the case of any such instrument to bearer of the nominal value of the share or stock to which the instrument relates.—(Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.)

STILL WINES IN BOTTLE.

3. Resolved, That, in lieu of the duties of Customs payable, under the resolution reported

from the Committee of Ways and Means on the fourteenth day of April, and then agreed to by the House, on still wine imported into Great Britain or Ireland in bottle there shall be charged, levied, and paid the same duties in respect of alcoholic strength as if the wine were in cask, and an additional duty, the gallon One shilling.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*).

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

COLONIAL LOANS FUND BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that last Session, in consequence of the objections he raised to this Bill as it then stood, the measure was withdrawn, but as far as he understood it, those grounds of objection had been removed from the present Bill, and he should no longer oppose it. The last Bill practically took the control of the matter out of the hands of the House, and did not give sufficient control to the Treasury over the finances of the colonies to justify the granting of the loans. It was proposed, not that there should be a separate Bill for each loan, but that the proposals should be hidden in the annual Bill of the Public Works Loan Commissioners. But, although those blots had to a certain extent been removed, he still failed to see that there would be complete control on the part of the Treasury or Colonial Office over the colonies to which the loans would be advanced. The Colonial Secretary had told them that no money would be advanced except where full control was given to the Colonial Office, but that surely meant the abrogation of the Constitutions of the colonies borrowing. With regard to Dominica and Antigua, that had practically occurred, but there were to be loans to Barbadoes and St. Vincent to the extent of about £50,000. Would these cases come under this Bill?

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: Yes.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that in that case his objection was rather greater than before, for last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that the West

Indies would not come under the provisions of the Bill.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I said we did not contemplate any loans to them at the time.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the Bill was introduced last year on the understanding that the West Indies would be excluded, but now it was proposed that the first two loans under it should be to colonies which could only be described as semi-bankrupt colonies. He wished to enter a *caveat* in regard to this matter. They had some suspicion that the main object of the Bill was to render more feasible the granting of loans for the purpose of bolstering up some of our semi-bankrupt colonies. That certainly was not the desire of the House of Commons. Further, he desired to know if the Bill would be utilised for the general consolidation of outstanding loans of Crown colonies. That was an object he would like to see attained, as many colonies had to pay high rates of interest, and the Bill would enable them to be placed on a better fiscal system. Some idea was entertained of making use of these loans for the investment of Savings Bank funds, but if there were only to be loans of £50,000 here and there that would be no assistance, seeing the large amount the Savings Bank had to invest. He now wished to ask if the House of Commons would have by a separate Bill full control over any loan proposed to any colony and if the powers would be used for the consolidation of existing Colonial loans; also would there be efficient financial control on the part of the Colonial Office and the Treasury over the different colonies to which the loans were made?

*SIR SAMUEL MONTAGU said he considered the Bill an exceedingly good one, bearing in mind that it recognised our responsibility towards the Crown colonies, the finances of which were absolutely under our control. He hoped that no colony of ours would fail to meet its engagements. He assumed the Bill did not apply to self-governing colonies?

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: No.

*SIR SAMUEL MONTAGU, continuing, said that for a Crown colony to be in default would be something like a crime.

He could not accept the description of his honourable friend of any colony as semi-bankrupt, for the Imperial Government could not deny its responsibility. The Bill provided for making the necessary advances to Crown colonies to rank after existing loans, and they would therefore be of the nature of a second mortgage, and existing loans would be a first mortgage and would disappear by sinking fund arrangements or other means. An offer should be made to consolidate existing loans, putting them on a sound financial basis, and converting them into Government securities, suitable for trustees, with a saving to the colonies of £40,000 or £50,000 a year. These colonial loans would then offer a good form of investment for Savings Bank funds, a subject on which he was glad to know the Chancellor of the Exchequer was about to institute an inquiry.

MR. DILLON said he could not support the provisions of this Bill. He scouted the idea that a Crown colony could not be semi-bankrupt. It was well known that many of them were, and it appeared to him that the Bill was calculated to facilitate the borrowing of money by these unfortunate colonies. Clause 6 contemplated that provision should be made for the case of these colonies. Colonial catastrophes might and would arise, making payment of liabilities impossible, and a claim would then be made on the Consolidated Fund under the clause. The House ought to be invited to consider the measure of responsibility it undertook in accepting this Bill. He supposed they would be told that it was in the interest of the spirit of imperialism that the Mother Country should take over responsibility for the liabilities of the Crown colonies, but he thought we ought at least to have some statement of the ultimate expense of the operation. He doubted if the proposal would benefit the colonies, while it was calculated to inflict a future liability on this country of the extent of which they had no definite estimate. He particularly objected to Sub-section 2 of Clause 7, and to the policy it embodied of lending the guarantee of this country to any British Protectorate or protected State. This provision was too wide, because it would include Uganda, the Soudan, East Africa, and Rhodesia. Where would they stop? Would all the West African States come

within that category? He was by no means friendly to the principle of the Bill, and he should strongly oppose some of its provisions in Committee.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I do not think the honourable Member quite appreciates the fact that no loan can be made under the provisions of this Bill. It merely provides financial machinery through which loans can be made if the House should assent to a separate Bill, which would have to be introduced, with regard to any such loan. It is impossible, therefore, that there can be a wide extension of loans throughout the Colonies and the Protectorates, such as the honourable Member supposes, without the sanction of Parliament. Replying to the honourable Members for Poplar and Whitechapel, as to the consolidation of the loans of Crown colonies, I do not think the House has always remembered the responsibility which we already bear on behalf of those colonies. It is quite true that we do not in any way guarantee their loans; they borrow on their own credit, and it is often very good. It is unfair to describe Crown colonies as bankrupt or semi-bankrupt colonies.

MR. DILLON: I referred to some of the West Indian Colonies. I do not say it is their fault.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The credit of some of the West Indian Colonies is good at the present time, and taking the Crown colonies generally, money might be lent to them under the system proposed by the Bill on as good security, as a rule, as can be got anywhere else. The House should bear in mind this point—if a Crown colony becomes bankrupt or semi-bankrupt, the ultimate responsibility now lies with Parliament and the country. Therefore the increased responsibility we may incur through the operation of this Bill and the Bills which might follow it authorising separate loans, is not so great as the honourable Gentleman supposes. The question of the consolidation of loans has occupied my attention, and I hope it may be effected to some extent under the provisions of the Bill. But we cannot consolidate existing loans unless those who hold them are willing to accept reasonable terms, and it is possible, judging by the price of the loans in the market, that they may

prefer to keep their existing security until the loans are paid off. The Bill will enable the Government to utilise funds which at present they have great difficulty in utilising, and which, I believe, will be utilised through its provisions on ample security, producing great benefit to this country as well as to our colonies.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee) said he believed that with the safeguards to which the right honourable Gentleman had referred, there need be no apprehension that the Government or Parliament would wantonly and recklessly squander the funds committed to their charge. With regard to Savings Bank funds he would much rather favour some means of investing them in a manner calculated to be of advantage to the colonies, than consent to hastily attempt to reduce the rate of interest on the deposits, or make any great change in the amount allowed to be deposited in any one year. It was a mistake to suppose that a large percentage of the depositors consisted of persons who might properly invest their money in other ways, for the number of deposits exceeding £100 was comparatively small. They ought to encourage depositors to invest their money in the Savings Bank, and it would be unfortunate if, when he had reached a total of £100, the depositor found the door closed to him. It was also desirable to encourage useful works in our colonies, and on the whole he thought the Government were to be commended for having brought in the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CLAUSE 1.

Question again proposed,

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill reported, with Amendments; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next.

Sir M. Hicks-Beach.

SUPPLY—REPORT [5th MAY].

Resolution reported.

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1899-1900.

CLASS 2.

"That a sum, not exceeding £133,098, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the salaries and expenses of the office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Subordinate Departments."

Resolution read a second time.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) moved to reduce this Vote by £100. He said that on Friday night last he was prevented from doing so in Committee. Within the last three years he had called the attention of the Board of Trade to the serious overcrowding of railway carriages in large cities. He thought steps should be taken to stop this overcrowding, and the railway companies should be compelled to remedy it. Clause 7 of the railway bye-laws states, that when a carriage contains the full number of passengers no additional persons shall remain therein, and that they may be removed by any duly authorised agent of the company, and that for overcrowding, passengers are liable to a fine of 40s. for the first offence, and afterwards to a penalty of £5. Too much power is in the hands of the railway companies, and it is for this reason that he pressed the right honourable Gentleman to take some steps to compel them to provide better facilities for passengers. The railway companies should provide more carriages of the class chiefly in demand. No doubt he would be told that the platforms were not long enough. To that he would reply, "Make the platforms longer." He thought in this matter that the convenience of the public should be considered first and not the railway companies. He only wished that the President of the Board of Trade would put his foot down and show that his Department were the masters of the situation.

*MR. SPEAKER: When the honourable Member speaks of the power of the Board of Trade to shorten or lengthen platforms he is not in order, because it is not the duty

of that Department to control such matters.

*MR. WEIR proceeded to say that on page 2 of the bye-laws it was provided that any person failing to leave the carriage when requested to do so by any duly authorised person might be removed under the direction of such servant or agent. Under this new bye-law it would be competent for any servant of the company, any of those small boys so numerous employed, to request passengers to come out, and to call for assistance to eject them, and stop them at any stage of the journey. The other might be applied at a booking-office for a ticket and he was told "This is the last train; go without your ticket." Now if this bye-law had been confirmed by the Board of Trade, it would have been quite possible for any official to have turned him out at any intermediate station. He sincerely hoped that the right honourable Gentleman would take care that these bye-laws were so modified as to suit the convenience of passengers, and that the interests of the railway companies would be studied rather less in future. It was provided in the bye-laws that every passenger in the train should be supplied with means of communication, and he should like to see that bye-law enforced. He hoped the right honourable Gentleman would give his attention to this matter, and not allow the railway companies to control the Board of Trade. With regard to private lines, the Board of Trade gave facilities to companies to join with other main lines, but took no power to control the level crossings of these private lines. He should like better arrangements made at level crossings for the protection of the public. Then there was the question of the trawlers sailing at night without lights. Now the Board of Trade had power to impose penalties on trawlers who failed to carry lights at night. He asked the right honourable Gentleman to give some attention to this matter and to see that the penalties were inflicted. If those penalties were insufficient to deter trawlers from sailing without lights, a bye-law inflicting heavier penalties should be made. There was also a matter in connection with the water supply in his own constituency at a railway station. He had previously brought the matter under the notice of the Board of Trade. The other day he had occasion to inquire again,

and he did so in consequence of the report of the medical officer of health for the county, who complained of the unsatisfactory state of the water supply at that station. In reply to his question, the right honourable Gentleman stated that he could not go down and inquire as to the working of the water filter at that station. The manager of the railway company had stated that the water supply was ample, but he asked the right honourable Gentleman not to accept the statement of the officer of the railway company, but to accept the report of the medical officer for the county. He hoped the right honourable Gentleman would attend to this matter, for it had now been going on for three years. On page 110 of the Estimates there was a sum put down under the heading of superintendent of publications and assistant librarian. He received £800 a year, and he provided out of that an assistant librarian whose salary was not mentioned. Now, he objected to a system of sweating in any Government office. They did not know whether this assistant was brushed off with £2 or £3 a week, for it was not stated. On page 112 there were items connected with the Patent Office. Now that Office produced a revenue of £230,000 a year, and the expenses amounted to £63,000 a year, which left a balance of £167,000 of clear profit. He contended that the Patent Office ought not to be a profit-making concern, but that every encouragement should be given to the inventor. The struggles of poor inventors were many and great. Many of them struggled hard, lived in the humblest abode, and often spent their last shilling in the development of an idea which they believed would lead on to fortune. When they had developed their invention they went to the Patent Office, and had to pay very large fees and take a considerable amount of risk. In regard to the registration of patents, he advocated the adoption of the system now working in America, which worked very satisfactorily indeed. He knew that reductions were made some years ago, but they had not been satisfactory to the inventor.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£133,000,' in order to insert '£132,998.'—(Mr. Weir.)
instead thereof."

Question proposed—

"That '£133,098' stand part of the resolution."

MR. J. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough) said that on Friday night last he took up the time of the House discussing many questions affecting the shipping interest, but the right honourable Gentleman gave him very unsatisfactory answers on several points, although on the majority of the matters which were brought to his notice the answers were not altogether unsatisfactory. There was one case to which he wanted to call the special attention of the right honourable Gentleman, and it was with regard to the steamer, the "Tuscan Prince." He had asked the right honourable Gentleman whether this steamer had carried passengers in the shape of pilgrims from Jaffa, and whether this steamer had a Board of Trade certificate, and was licensed to carry passengers. The reply he received was that she carried no passengers, had no certificate to carry passengers, and carried no surgeon. He did not know what inquiry the right honourable Gentleman had made, or whether he had communicated directly with the owners of the vessel. He, however, had received a letter from one of the men who was serving on the ship, a copy of which he had forwarded to the right honourable Gentleman. That letter, stating the full facts, was signed by a seaman who was on board the "Tuscan Prince," and he wanted to know how it was that this steamer was allowed without any licence whatever to carry 100 pilgrim passengers, huddled together on the fore-deck of that vessel, and apparently, in addition to the passengers, she also carried a deck cargo of sheep. That was a very serious state of affairs if it was possible for shipowners to run their vessels and carry passengers without being properly inspected and manned, and when a question was put to the right honourable Gentleman by him with regard to the matter, he got the reply, "I am informed that the 'Tuscan Prince' carried no passengers." He did not think that it was quite the correct thing that, after a complaint was made to the Board of Trade with regard to a breach of the regulations, they should simply communicate with the owners, who denied that the state of things was as represented, and then no further inquiry was

made. The Board of Trade had ample opportunities of inquiring whether the statements of this sailor were correct, and if they found them to be accurate he trusted that there would be no further delay on the part of the Board of Trade in putting the law in force and punishing the offenders. He should not be at all surprised at cholera being imported into this country by steamers carrying those pilgrims from infected places, when they were put on board British steamers in this mean manner, huddled together on the foredeck of the vessel, without any proper protection, and without any surgeon. If this was the way in which the Board of Trade managed its business, it was not very creditable to them, and they had no right to come to this House and ask honourable Members to vote money in order to mismanage the business in that manner. He had had some controversy with the right honourable Gentleman with regard to the articles that were to be supplied to seamen, and he had objected to the continuous discharges system. The right honourable Gentleman had declared that this system was the best, and he had appointed a Departmental Committee. In the first place, he objected to a Departmental Committee inquiring into such an important subject, which concerned the interests of shipowners, captains, and seamen. If a committee was to be appointed, then let it be a committee of this House, and let all the shipping interests be properly represented. The right honourable Gentleman had taken a most unusual course. He declared emphatically in favour of continuous discharges, and said that in his opinion that system, with a character, was the best to adopt, and then he appointed a Committee of his own officials to inquire into the subject. Now, he had the greatest possible respect for the permanent officials of the Board of Trade, but the remarkable thing was that the President of the Board of Trade has declared himself in favour of a certain system, and he was now asking his officials to inquire and report to him upon that very subject. He asked the right honourable Gentleman in all fairness did he really think his own officials would report against his own desire and against his expressed wish and opinion? He did not think they would, for his opinion was that they would not dare to do anything of the kind, and in all probability they would report in favour of the system

which the right honourable Gentleman had evidently been convinced was the right system by certain shipowners, and he was disregarding entirely the views of the seamen. The right honourable Gentleman replied the other night, "We will have the continuous discharges, but if they do not like to have them they can have the ordinary single discharge when they are paid off at the end of every voyage." Now, was it any use whatever to appoint a Committee to inquire into such an important question when the Committee had already made up its mind to recommend a continuous discharge for seamen which they could have if they liked, and if they did not like it they could have the old form? The result would be, that as long as a man had got a "V.G.," or a good character, he would stand by the continuous discharge, but as soon as he had the misfortune to get with a captain with whom he could not agree, and he got a report for bad conduct, he would throw his continuous discharge on one side and take up the single discharge, which he could buy for 3d., 4d., or 1s. He wanted to remind the right honourable Gentleman that he was not making any provision as to the time that a seaman must serve before he was entitled to be rated as an able seaman or fireman, and that was, after all, the most important point for which they were contending. They wanted men to be qualified seamen, and, if the shipowners chose, they could have an examination of competency, and make every seaman pass that examination. No man could be a qualified able seaman unless he had had three years' service on board a ship. At the present time, when ships were so badly manned, it was all the more important that they should have good men. Under this system any kind of men would be allowed to continue to go to sea. He knew that shipowners suffered some inconvenience through men failing to join their ships after having signed their articles. Now if a man gave in his continuous discharge and missed his vessel, he could send up to the Registrar-General and get another copy for 6d. or 1s., and he could ship the next day in another vessel. What they wanted was a parchment certificate, and when a man signed on he should hand that certificate in to the captain, and if he failed to join the vessel it should be returned to the Board of Trade, and when he wanted to join another ship he

would have to apply to the Board of Trade for his parchment, and then they could suspend his certificate for one, two, or three months as a punishment. With regard to foreigners, he had never objected to them being on board British ships, but did the right honourable Gentleman propose to give licences to foreigners who could not speak a word of English? The crew of the "Afghan Prince" was made up of men belonging to twelve different nationalities, and that was a nice state of affairs to have on board a ship. Surely they were not going to carry interpreters for them all, and they would not get a boatswain who understood twelve languages at £4 10s. a month. He thought that if a foreigner was allowed on board an English ship he ought to understand our language so as not to endanger the lives of the people on the vessel. Why should this question be referred to a Departmental Committee instead of to a Committee of this House? The House very often appointed Committees on far less important subjects, and there was a strong feeling in the House in favour of an inquiry into this question. The right honourable Gentleman had said that no continuous discharge would be of any use whatever unless the character and conduct of the man was inserted in it. He would accept that if the right honourable Gentleman would go a little further and say that wherever a seaman had been given a bad discharge, and felt himself aggrieved about it, he should have the right to appeal to some independent authority to have his case tried on its merits. It was for that reason, and many others, that he hoped the right honourable Gentleman would consider the matter and see if he could not give them a Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole subject. With regard to the North Atlantic winter load-line, he was not at all satisfied with the answer given by the right honourable Gentleman, nor with the manner in which the change had been brought about, and he ventured to say that some day there would be more noise made about it. The shipowners asked for this, and the seamen and officers never asked for it at all. The right honourable Gentleman granted the shipowners this Committee, but he took good care to exclude from it those very persons whose interest it was most of all to be there. It had been said that the matter was such a

highly technical one, dealing with load-lines and freeboards, that the seamen would be of very little use on such a Committee. He thought that was a reflection on the seamen which the right honourable Gentleman was not justified in passing, for seamen did understand when a ship had sufficient freeboard. No Report of this Committee had been laid upon the Table of the House, and they did not know really what had been done. The evidence had never been printed, and without having had a proper opportunity of discussing this matter the alteration was to be enforced. He hoped the right honourable Gentleman would give orders for that evidence to be printed, for Parliament had a right to have that evidence. The proposal was to alter the load-line to the extent of another six inches, but it was only vessels of over 350 feet in length that were able to load to this extent, and the more freeboard the less cargo she would carry. The one anxiety of the shipowners was to carry cargo, but as far as he was concerned he said, "Hang the cargo!" if it was a question of risking the lives of the sailors, which they ought to consider before the cargo. He would like to ask the right honourable Gentleman how many of this Committee were in favour of the change. He had heard that there were a considerable number of the members of the Committee who were opposed to it, and if the captains, engineers, and seamen had been represented on that Committee there would have been no change whatever. He therefore asked that the House should have an opportunity of considering the evidence, and should have a day for the discussion of this question. There was one other matter to which he desired to allude. At North Shields one of the Board of Trade officials had been charged by four seamen with receiving money for providing employment. The matter had been before the Board of Trade for some two or three weeks, and as far as he could ascertain at the present time no action had been taken. The case was considered by the local Marine Board, who were the responsible parties at North Shields, and their report had been sent to the Board of Trade in London. He would like to ask if any further action had been taken by the Board of Trade in the matter. He apologised to the House for taking up so much time, but really the shipping ques-

tion was such a big and important subject that they could not discuss matters concerning it in a few minutes.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) called the attention of the President of the Board of Trade to the state of the level crossing at Falkirk on the North British Railway, where, during the last twenty years the traffic had increased immensely, and the danger to the population was now very great indeed. The Burgh Council had taken action in the matter, and he believed they had been successful. He wished, however, to have the opinion of the President of the Board of Trade upon the matter, and he should like the right honourable Gentleman to make a recommendation to the railway company in question that greater care should be taken with regard to this level crossing.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) drew attention to certain grievances of his constituents arising out of the management and state of the Great Northern Railway of Ireland. He thought that there had been great neglect of duty on the part of the Board of Trade, who only found out that the line of railway was in such a state of disrepair after such accidents had happened as had happened in Monaghan. It was not after lives were lost and people had been maimed that the Board of Trade should find out the state of the railway on which such an accident had occurred. He also wished to call attention to another matter with regard to this line of railway. Great inconvenience was caused by the scarcity of trains. At one town there were only two stopping trains a day, one at 10 in the morning and another at 8 o'clock at night. That was a shocking state of things, having regard to the importance of the town, and so far as he was able, he would keep those matters before the House until redress was obtained. He hoped, however, that he would obtain from the President of the Board of Trade some promise that something would shortly be done to remedy the evils he complained of.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) called attention to the case of a lighterman who was drowned recently in the Thames in consequence of his skiff being swamped by the wash of a foreign

Mr. J. Havelock Wilson.

vessel. If the like happened in the case of a British vessel in foreign waters, it was detained until a satisfactory settlement had taken place, but if an accident was caused by a foreign vessel trading in English waters there was no power to detain the vessel. The right honourable Gentleman had promised some legislation on that important question, and he hoped he would use his influence to obtain it. The honourable Member also called attention to the overcrowding of third-class carriages in morning and evening trains on the Metropolitan and Great Eastern Railways. When workmen were going to and from their work the trains were overcrowded to a scandalous degree. He hoped the right honourable Gentleman would exercise the power he had at his disposal to stop such overcrowding, which had become a public scandal.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) desired to know whether the right honourable Gentleman intended to take any steps in consequence of the very serious finding of the Court of Inquiry with regard to the wreck of the "Stella," and whether any recommendations would be issued to the companies which ran the Channel Islands steamers. He also wished to know the number of inquiries held by the inspectors of the Board during the past year into fatal accidents to individual railway servants. He had repeatedly protested against the distinction made by the Board of Trade between fatalities in mines and fatalities among railway servants, and he thought that the two classes of fatality ought to be dealt with in the same way. He thought that an expert from the Board of Trade should be present at the inquiries, and should take an active part in bringing to light the cause of the fatalities in question. He also expressed a wish to know whether any steps had been taken to increase the number of inquiries by the Board of Trade into the fatalities among railway servants. He complained that the public were left in the dark as to the proceedings of the sub-inspectors, who were appointed by Mr. Mundella some years ago. Their inquiries had, it was true, led to the better lighting of goods yards and improvements in shunting, but there was no accurate information as to the inquiries they had held in relation to the accidents which had occurred. A third point which he desired to bring before the

House was in regard to the offer made to bring about a better mode of conciliation in industrial disputes. He regretted that that offer had not yet been carried out, and he wished to know whether there was any prospect of further action being taken during the ensuing year to bring about a better system of conciliation than existed at the present time.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. RITCHIE, Croydon): The honourable Member for Northampton has raised questions of detail which I hardly expected to be raised at this stage. I desire to supply the information asked for, but I am not provided with it; if the honourable Member will put any question on the Paper with regard to any of the matters I will do the best I can, and give the fullest information in my power. Like the honourable Gentleman, I greatly regret that the employers did not see their way to adopt some such method of endeavouring to put a stop to trade disputes as those which I originated. The employed, I am glad to say, showed a great disposition to fall in with the views I expressed, and to meet the masters in the hope of arriving at some settlement. I hope, at all events, I was right in believing that the spirit of conciliation in larger matters even than that now in question is growing, not only in this country, but in the world generally. I shall be glad to hear that capital and labour have settled on some means by which these disastrous disputes can be put a stop to. I am sorry my proposals did not succeed, but I do not regret having made them. I know that when the Board of Trade or myself endeavour to put an end to individual disputes or to set up some permanent machinery, and are not successful, those efforts are regarded as great failures, and it is said it would have been better if we had not moved in the matter. I do not share that view. I am quite prepared to bear the criticism which has been passed upon me, and I do not regret any step I have taken. The honourable Gentleman asked whether the Board of Trade was prepared with any further representations. When I receive the report with reference to railway accidents it may be my duty to make some representations to the railway companies. As to the level crossing to which the honourable Member for Falkirk has called attention, the Board of Trade

Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord (George)
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. William Edw. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)

McCalmont, H. L. B. (Cambs.)
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John
 Milton, Viscount
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthr. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Pilkington, Richard
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson

Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutlerford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Chas. Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Valentia, Viscount
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Whitmore, Charles Alger (on)
 Williams, Josph. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wyndham, George
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness)
 Colville, John
 Daly, James
 Davitt, Michael
 Doogan, P. C.

Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, William (Carmarvon)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McLeod, John
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Philipps, John Wynford

Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Mr.
 Weir and Mr. Havelock
 Wilson.

Resolution agreed to.

WINES IMPORTED.

Return presented,—relative thereto
 [Ordered 12th May; *Mr. Gold*]; to lie
 upon the Table, and to be printed. [No.
 196.]

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question—

"That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr.
 Balfour.*)

Put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes
 before Twelve of the clock till
 Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday 15th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with—

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1).

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) [Lords].

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 11) [Lords].

And also the certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with—

OWEN'S COLLEGE, MANCHESTER [Lords].

EDINBURGH CORPORATION.

GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS.

GOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

GREAT GRIMSBY STREET TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

Reported with Amendments.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

The Queen's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

PAISLEY AND BARRHEAD DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

The Queen's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

VOL. LXXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN BANKS GUARANTEE FUND BILL [Lords].

Reported with Amendments.

BRIGHTON MARINE PALACE AND PIER BILL [Lords].

Reported with Amendments.

FURNESS RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Reported with Amendments.

STRETTFORD GAS BILL [Lords].

Reported with Amendments.

BRIGG URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

TENTERDEN RAILWAY BILL.

Reported without Amendment.

LOWESTOFT WATER AND GAS BILL [Lords].

MOSS SIDE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

STRETTFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

WITHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

Committee to meet to-morrow.

YORKE ESTATE BILL [Lords].

Read 2^a.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, and passed.

WICK AND PULTENEY HARBOURS BILL [Lords].

ST. NEOTS WATER BILL [Lords].

BURY CORPORATION WATER BILL [Lords].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (PILOTAGE) BILL [Lords].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (FINANCE) BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

CHURCH STRETTON WATER BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a; amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

HUMBER CONSERVANCY BILL [Lords].

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An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates a return to the commencement of a speech.

BEXHILL AND ST. LEONARDS TRAM-ROADS BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

BURLEY-IN-WHARFEDALE URBAN DISTRICT WATER BILL.

Read 3^a, with the amendments; a further amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

NUNEATON AND CHILVERS COTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL WATER BILL.**WOODHOUSE AND CONISBROUGH RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL.**

Read 3^a, with the amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

REDDITCH GAS BILL.**WEST MIDDLESEX WATER BILL.**

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

WALLASEY TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with amendments: The said amendments considered, and agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

To be read 2^a to-morrow. (*The Earl of Dudley.*)

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL [Lords].

To be read 2^a to-morrow.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 11) BILL [Lords].

To be read 2^a to-morrow.

PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS.

Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 92 and 93 be suspended; and that the time for depositing Petitions praying to be heard against Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, which would otherwise expire during the adjournment of the House at Whitsuntide, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [Lords].

Read 2^a (according to order).

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LIVERPOOL) BILL [Lords].

Read 2^a (according to order).

WESTON-SUPER-MARE, CLEVEDON, AND PORTISHEAD TRAMWAYS COMPANY (LIGHT RAILWAY EXTENSIONS) BILL [Lords].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Raglan be proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee in the place of the Earl of Denbigh. Read and agreed to.

WATERMEN'S AND LIGHTERMEN'S ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [Lords].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Raglan be proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee in the place of the Earl of Denbigh. Read, and agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

ARMY (PAY, &c.).

List of exceptions to Army Regulations as to pay, non-effective pay, and allowances sanctioned during the year ended 31st March 1899.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1886-87.

Report by Crofters Commission, being for the year ended 31st December 1898.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Statistical tables for the year 1898.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural returns for Great Britain, showing the acreage and produce of crops, prices of corn, with agricultural statistics for the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries, 1898. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MEDWAY CONSERVANCY.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended 25th March, 1899. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITIONS.**INTOXICATING LIQUORS.**

Petition against the sale of, on Sundays ;—Of the inhabitants of Aylesbury and elsewhere, in the County of Buckingham ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (BOROUGH FUNDS) ACT, 1872.

Petition for Amendment of ;—Of the Northfleet Urban District Council ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL [Lords].

Petition in favour of ;—Of the Members of the Home and Foreign Produce Exchange, Limited ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

BILL INTRODUCED.**MARRIAGES VALIDITY BILL [Lords].**

A Bill to validate certain marriages was presented by the Lord Bishop of London ; read 1^a ; and to be printed. (No. 90.)

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL [Lords].

To be read 2^a, on Tuesday the 6th of June next.

SOLICITORS BILL [Lords].

Commons Amendments, to be considered To-morrow.

QUESTIONS.**RECRUITING FOR THE ARMY AND MILITIA.**

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, I rise to call attention to an order issued from the Horse Guards, commanding the sergeant-instructors of the Volunteer Force to recruit for the Army and Militia, under penalty of dismissal unless this order is zealously obeyed. To enable your Lordships to clearly understand the position, it is necessary that I should go back to the state of things existing when Volunteering first began in 1859. The only inducement to Volunteering then was that if a volunteer

serving under the old Act of George III. lost a leg or an arm, he had the benefit of Chelsea Hospital, and if he was killed there was a pension for his wife. Your Lordships will recognise the wholesome element of patriotism which animated the Volunteer Force in the early days of the movement. Volunteers patiently bore expenses of all kinds, including the cost of uniform, accoutrements, drill sergeants, drill grounds, ranges, targets, armouries, armour, headquarters, advertising, postage, stationery, and travelling expenses. The State did little or nothing for the Volunteers, except give them the rifle of the day—the Snider—and from private sources no less a sum than £1,500,000 had been expended patriotically by the Volunteers and their friends in aid of the public service. The state of our defences was such that we all felt the desirability of something stronger being done. The subject was raised in the House of Commons in 1861, and a Commission appointed. The Commission reported in favour of help being given to the Volunteer Force, this help taking the form of a capitation grant and the payment of sergeants. These sergeants were appointed solely for the service of the Volunteers, and their number was in proportion to the men with whom they had to deal and to drill. What has happened? If it is true that the Order to which I refer in my question has been issued, and that these sergeants are employed in recruiting for the Army and Militia, all I can say is that assuredly such employment had not been present to the mind of the authorities of the War Office when the duties of these officers were first imposed. Under what power this Order is issued I do not know. When the Act of 1863 was passed, the Noble Duke the Lord President of the Council was Secretary of State for War, and it was clearly understood then that these men were appointed for the Volunteer Service, and the Act contained nothing which was intended in any way to interfere with the position or status of that force. But this Order has gone out, and remonstrances have been made against it. It has been pointed out that the Volunteer staff at present is insufficient in many cases to discharge its proper duty. The Volunteer Force under these circumstances naturally suffers in its efficiency. I have a letter here from the Commander-in-Chief,

in which it is stated that recruiting for the Army and Militia forms an integral part, and a very important part, of the duty of these sergeants. I venture to say, my Lords, that to make recruiting an integral part of the duty of these sergeant-instructors is a perversion of the intention of Parliament. The letter from the Commander-in-Chief continues :

"If the Staff-sergeants fail in obtaining recruits, Lord Wolseley is prepared to take steps for their removal, and their replacement by others who will at least make every effort compatible with their other duties to raise recruits. The Commander-in-Chief will also look to the Adjutants of these corps in future taking a larger part in enforcing and stimulating this operation."

A question was asked as to which of the duties were to have priority, and if the sergeants were to do double duty—their duty as sergeants of the Volunteer force and their duty as recruiting officers. The answer was that no priority of importance could be assigned to the duties attached to non-commissioned officers of the permanent staff.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Marquess of Lansdowne): From what is the noble Lord quoting?

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I am quoting from one of these letters.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: One of which letters? Who signed that letter?

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: The letter is signed by Colonel Fludyer, commanding the Home District. I can assure the noble Marquess that it is all right. My noble friend does not appear to like it. Then it was asked whether the instructors were to recruit from the Volunteers, and the answer was that they were not to recruit from their own regiments. A case was brought under my notice where a sergeant who ought to have been on parade was away, having been ordered to go to a district five miles off to recruit for the Army and Militia. When these staff-sergeants were appointed they were appointed for the benefit of the Volunteers, and I wish to give the House only a short and simple statement of facts without comment. In the view of a great military authority—not the Commander-in-Chief—the Volunteers are acting con-

Earl of Wemyss.

trary to discipline in bringing their grievances before Parliament. But to take that view is to ignore the whole principle of Volunteering, which is, that the Volunteers, when not on military duty, retain all their civil rights. I have always held that when Volunteers are no longer on military duty they retain their civil rights, one of which my noble friend tried to take from them by a Bill last year or the year before. I therefore feel quite justified in bringing before the House a matter materially affecting the force with which I have been so long connected, and to which I am proud still to belong.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I am afraid that what the noble Earl on the cross benches calls a short and simple statement of facts requires a good deal of correction. It is quite evident from the tenor of his speech that he is under the impression that some entirely new departure has been made in regard to the employment of these sergeant-instructors of Volunteers on recruiting.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: A departure from the original intention.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I think the noble Earl hinted that the change had been made during my administration.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: No.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I will tell the House what are the present Volunteer regulations on this subject, and I will show how little they differ from the regulations to which the noble Earl has been accustomed for a great many years past. Under the present regulations, dated 1896, it is laid down that the principal duty of an instructor is to attend to the drill and instruction of the corps to which he is posted. That deals with the question of priority of duty, upon which the noble Earl waxed so eloquent. It is also laid down that sergeant-instructors will be required to perform such military duties as may be directed by the district officer commanding; and that every sergeant-instructor is to have it explained to him that he is liable for duties of this kind. The noble Earl thinks this is a recent invention.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Comparatively.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I do not know what the noble Earl's idea of a comparatively recent invention may be, but I am sure he recollects the Committee presided over by Sir Patrick MacDougall, who prepared the mobilization scheme when His Royal Highness was in chief command of the Army. That Committee sat in 1872, and it was proposed by the Committee that—

“The Colonel of any sub-district will superintend and direct . . . the recruiting service for the Line and Militia Battalions of his brigade . . . and for such service he will direct the employment of the officers and N.C.O.'s of the depot . . . as well as of the adjutants and sergeant-instructors of Rifle Volunteers, within the sub-district, as he may see fit.”

That was the recommendation of the MacDougall Committee, and in the following year—1873—general regulations were issued to all officers commanding regimental districts, under which the officer commanding the brigade dépôt was to have at his disposal for recruiting purposes, amongst others, the adjutants and sergeant-instructors of Rifle Volunteers. Now, with his knowledge of the Volunteer force and its history, the noble Earl can find it possible to say that the idea of employing these instructors in this way never entered into the heads of the War Office passes my comprehension.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I said it never entered into the heads of those who first appointed these instructors.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I must remind the noble Lord that the regulations to which he has referred have been in force for more than twenty-five years, and I believe they have never been objected to until to-day by the noble Lord, with all his knowledge of the Volunteer force. Now what are the facts? The Inspector-General of Recruiting observed that in the Home District, or rather a part of the Home District—the London portion of it—there was almost a complete failure of these sergeant-instructors to obtain recruits. The figures are so remarkable that I will state them to your Lordships. In this part of the Home District, there are 135 of these sergeant-instructors, and they produced among them last year the magnificent total of

36 recruits. Of these 19 were collected by a single sergeant, so that 17 recruits were gained by 134 sergeants-instructors, whose duty it was, under the Volunteer Regulations, to assist in recruiting. The Inspector-General of Recruiting called, very properly, the attention of the General Officer Commanding the District to this matter, so that inquiries might be made on the subject, and I think a more legitimate course of proceeding could not possibly be followed. In reply to that, the commanding officer stated very clearly and frankly the objections of colonels of Volunteer battalions to having their sergeants employed as recruiters. They said it took them away from their work and made them mix with a class of the population from which the recruits for the Regular Army were drawn, and a class which it was undesirable they should enter amongst. The Inspector-General of Recruiting replied that if these arguments were to prevail, no recruits could be obtained in any part of the United Kingdom by the members of the permanent staff of the Volunteers, which at present raises every year something like from 4,000 to 6,000 recruits. We certainly are not prepared to forego that source of supply merely because the work of recruiting happens to be a little unpopular with these sergeants in the London District. The General Officer Commanding the Home District was told that if the sergeant-instructors could not succeed in getting a better average than one-eighth of a recruit apiece the Commander-in-Chief would endeavour to find other sergeant-instructors with a greater aptitude for recruiting. The Commander-in-Chief was within his right in giving that warning. I have shown your Lordships that this duty of recruiting has for more than twenty-five years been part of the regular duty of these sergeants; I have shown you that the duty was not adequately performed by the sergeants in the London District; and I must say I think the Inspector-General would have failed in his duty had he not taken notice of this matter. But when I say that, I do not wish for one moment to suggest that we should have any right to take these non-commissioned officers away from the work of the corps to which they are attached, and which, of course, has the first call upon their time. I saw the other day a letter from a well-known colonel of Volunteers, whose language

seems to me to very correctly summarise the proper view of this matter. He writes :—

“In common with every colonel of Volunteers, I am anxious to do, and to allow the Adjutant and permanent staff to do, anything which is possible to popularise the Regular Army, and to obtain recruits for it, consistently with the interest of the unit committed to one's charge.”

That is exactly our point of view, and it seems to me a reasonable one. That is all we ask. We recognise that the principal duty of the permanent staff is with their own corps, but we believe it is compatible with the discharge of that duty that they should help the Regular Army to the best of their ability in obtaining recruits.

*THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: My Lords, I had the honour of commanding a Volunteer corps from the year 1866 down to five years ago, and therefore I can remember the state of things which existed before 1872. It is perfectly true that this system of employing non-commissioned officers for recruiting has been in force since the year 1872, but as far as I know it has always been objected to by officers commanding the Volunteers, and what I am saying now applies equally to the Militia. The same policy has been pursued in regard to the Militia, and has been constantly objected to. Although the system dates back to 1872, it was a very different thing then to what it has recently become. The pressure has been gradually greater and greater upon commanding officers to allow their non-commissioned officers of the permanent staff to be employed in recruiting service. Commanding officers find that in order to maintain the efficiency of their corps they require the full time of their non-commissioned officers, and I deprecate, as I have always deprecated, the constant effort of the War Office to try and make one and the same person perform two incompatible duties. It is very cheap; it is no doubt admirable from the recruiting point of view; but it is fatal to the Reserve Forces. If it is the wish of the War Office that either the Militia or the Volunteers should be in a proper state of strength and efficiency, it is, in my judgment, absolutely necessary that they should secure to the command-

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ing officers of corps the full control of the non-commissioned officers of the permanent staff. It must be admitted, I think, by all who have ever been connected with the Militia or the Volunteers that admirable as no doubt the officers of these corps are, and admirable as is the material of which the private is made, the weak point in them is the Volunteer non-commissioned officer. It is not, I think, his own fault altogether. It is largely owing to the circumstances of the case; but to whatever it may be due, every commanding officer to whom I have spoken has experienced difficulty in coping with Volunteer non-commissioned officers. Therefore it is doubly important that he should have a good and efficient permanent staff under his control. It is upon them he must rely to a very great extent for the efficiency of his battalion. The noble Marquess the Secretary of State for War said it was hardly to be expected that the War Office should modify its regulations because recruiting happened to be unpopular with these officers. But he must remember that if you make the Volunteer or the Militia Service unpopular with the non-commissioned officers of the Army, you will not get the best men for the position, and great difficulty is experienced now in getting the best men from the regiment to join the staffs of the Militia and Volunteers. It has long been my opinion that both the Militia and Volunteer Forces have suffered very severely from this cheese-paring policy of trying to get recruiting service out of men who are really employed, or ought to be employed, on a totally different service, and thereby crippling the efficiency, of the non-commissioned officer, and complicating the whole system. I believe nothing can be done which would more improve the Militia and Volunteer Forces than a reversal of this system.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: We have got from my noble friend, the Secretary of State for War, at any rate a clear expression of opinion that recruiting is a secondary duty. However, I think we ought to show some consideration to my noble friend in this matter, because the War Office are at their wits' end to get men. I find that a boy of 13 enlisted six times in six regiments and is counted in the Estimates as six men.

PROPOSED PACIFIC CABLE.

*THE EARL OF ABERDEEN (Viscount GORDON): My Lords, I rise to ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in view of the importance of an understanding being arrived at between Her Majesty's Government and the Governments of Canada and of the Australian Colonies, with reference to the proposed Pacific cable, Her Majesty's Government will be disposed to reconsider some of the stipulations recently set forth by them in relation to the scheme. My question is expressed in a somewhat guarded and condensed manner, and therefore I hope your Lordships will not consider it out of place if I add just a word or two by way of explanation. Your Lordships will have observed that in the year 1896 a Committee was appointed to consider the question of the Pacific Cable. It was a very strong and representative Committee, as its constitution shows, and anyone reading the Report will at once see that the members of the Committee were entirely in favour of carrying out the Pacific Cable. Various recommendations are, of course, given as to the methods to be adopted, but the Committee are favourable to the proposal. On August 29, 1898, the Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland agreed that if Great Britain and Canada paid five-ninths and New Zealand one-ninth, New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria would contribute one-ninth each. New Zealand practically complied with that proposal in giving their one-ninth. In December, 1898, the following message was received from Canada approving of the proposal alluded to in the Australian telegram :—

"Am authorised to inform Mr. Chamberlain that the Canadian Government will gladly join Imperial Government in contributing each a half of five-ninths for Pacific cable provided Australian Colonies contribute remaining four-ninths."

In consequence of these communications, a letter was sent to the Agents-General for the Australian Colonies and the High Commissioner for Canada by the Colonial Office. This is an exceedingly important letter. It gives the views of Her Majesty's Government upon the Pacific cable, and states what they are prepared to do; but I should like to remark that before this authorised statement appeared there was an announcement, which had all the appearance of being authentic, which

stated that Her Majesty's Government had decided to do something considerably more than they really had decided to do, and this more favourable announcement was greeted with unanimous approval not only by the Colonies concerned but by the British Press generally. In the letter to which I have referred it is stated that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the construction of a Pacific cable was a matter of much greater importance to Australia and Canada than to the United Kingdom, but it also remarked that the success of the project cannot fail to promote Imperial unity. I venture to submit that anything which supports Imperial unity is of very practical consequence, though in an indirect sense perhaps, to the central portion of the Empire. Moreover, there is no allusion in this letter to another important feature of the cable—namely, that it would provide an all-British line of telegraphic communication. I think the significance and importance of that, from a strategical point of view, is obvious. Canada and the other Colonies have often been exhorted to do their part in contributing to the defence of the Empire, and so forth. I think the active part they propose to take in this cable is an indirect contribution to what will be of great value in military organisation. Then we come to the conditions upon which a certain measure of support will be given by Her Majesty's Government. The letter states that the Government are prepared to offer

"For a period not exceeding 20 years, an annual subsidy not exceeding a maximum limit of £20,000 in any one year."

There are several other conditions, and the feeling on the part of Canada and of the Australian Colonies, so far as I have been able to ascertain it, is that these conditions are extremely stringent, and consequently have created great disappointment. Another condition of the Government's contribution is that the cable must be in accordance with specification, and samples to be approved by the Treasury, and to the satisfaction, and so forth, of the Treasury, and to be effectually worked with a sufficient staff who must be British subjects. The condition as to the employment of British subjects is an indirect indication that Her Majesty's Government do recognise the importance of a British cable under absolutely British control. But the point is that it is difficult for Canada and the

Australian Colonies to estimate what they would be liable for under this stipulation. Your Lordships know that the cost of the cable will largely depend on the number of words which it is to be capable of conveying per minute, and obviously it is very desirable to have a cable capable of rapid transmission; but, at the same time, if Her Majesty's Government lay so much stress on the efficiency of the cable in that respect, one would think they might give further encouragement to secure that the cable should be of the highest possible efficiency. There are several other conditions which seem to me extremely severe. For instance, the Government insists that all rates charged to the general public shall be approved by the Treasury. At first sight that might seem for the protection of the public, but when we think of the delicate questions in regard to possible competition I am afraid this clause might have a hampering effect, and perhaps make it more difficult for the Governments concerned to raise such loans as they might wish to raise for the purpose of carrying out this project. We all know the damaging effect of too many restrictions being imposed upon the contribution contemplated by the Government. I am afraid that an impression may be created that Her Majesty's Government do not regard the project with that confidence which we had hoped for, and that therefore it may not be carried out with such facility as is desirable. The principle of giving some contribution having been contemplated, I cannot help thinking that it would be a perfectly safe and reasonable course for the Government to have gone a little further, not merely as to the amount, but as the manner in which their aid is offered. It is well known that the feeling of Canada and of the Australian Colonies towards the Mother Country is of an excellent character, and it would be a great pity if anything were done which would check their confident expectations regarding the readiness of the Government to meet them at least half way in such an undertaking as this, which is obviously either directly or indirectly for the benefit of the Empire at large. The attitude of Her Majesty's Government, hitherto as expressed through the Colonial Office and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has been eminently one to encourage and foster the desirable state of

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feeling to which I have alluded, and I hope it may be possible for Her Majesty's Government to still further strengthen the ties between the Colonies and ourselves, and help forward this great scheme by relaxing something of the stringency of the conditions upon which the subsidy is offered.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (the Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, the noble Earl has criticised the letter announcing the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon this subject, but I assure him that there was no intention in the letter either of throwing cold water on a project of such great public interest, or of conveying the decision in a manner which would seem to be ungracious. Government departments are constantly striving to formulate their proposals in letters which shall not appear to be ungracious, but I am aware that they are constantly finding that they fail in that attempt. The point raised has been a good deal discussed in the Press, and, somewhat to my surprise, particular stress has been laid on that paragraph of the letter which states that the construction of this cable is a matter of greater importance to Australia and Canada than to the United Kingdom. Now, my Lords, surely the two proposals are not incompatible. It may be perfectly true at one and the same time that a project such as this may be of great general interest to the Empire, and also that it may have greater importance to specific portions of the Empire. I think that what was meant to be expressed in this paragraph states no more than the fact. It is open to anyone who reads this letter to form his own opinion as to whether the particular form of proposal which the Government have made is the best or not in the circumstances, but I do not think that anyone who really understands the proposal in its financial aspect can say that it is ungenerous, because it is nothing more or less than an offer to bear the full share of the annual burden which has been suggested as appropriate by the colonies concerned, and at the same time not to demand any share in any profits that may arise. That may or may not be the best attitude to adopt, but whatever opinion may be formed in that respect I do not think it can be criticised as an ungenerous offer. The maximum of £20,000 seems, according to the evidence

adduced before the Committee, to be the highest possible sum, on the proportion of five-eightieths, that could ever fall upon the Government of this country to bear. The noble Lord has animadverted on what he has described as the stringency and severity of the conditions. I speak with deference in the presence of my noble friend opposite, who was once Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, but those conditions are only of the kind which the Treasury make it a rule to impose whenever this country bears a share in any project such as this one of the Pacific cable. I do not know whether the details are identical with the details of similar conditions which have been imposed when this country has subsidised a cable, we will say, of the Eastern Telegraph Company, but I do not think they will be found in any way to differ in principle. There is no ulterior motive lurking underneath them. They are merely those which the experience of the Post Office and the Treasury has shown it is prudent to insist upon as the most likely to conduce to efficiency of the work and the satisfactory maintenance of the service. But if, as would appear, the Australasian and Canadian Governments have any objection to urge on any ground to the exact form in which this proposal has been made, Her Majesty's Government are perfectly prepared to review the whole matter in the light of those representations, with a sincere desire, if possible, to arrive at a decision which will be mutually satisfactory to all the Governments concerned.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I am very glad to hear the closing words of the noble Earl, for at any rate we have the assurance that this arrangement is open to revision, and that the door is not finally closed. But I am sorry the noble Earl has taken as the sort of keynote of his speech to-night the last paragraph of the letter, which says that Her Majesty's Government trust that the liberal arrangement proposed will meet the views of the Colonies. This arrangement may be a sufficient one; as to that, I say nothing; but I do not think it can rightly be called a liberal one. The noble Earl rather challenged me with regard to the financial aspect of this question. What was the proposal made by the Colonies to the Mother Country? It was that the Australian Colonies and New Zealand

should bear four-ninths of the cost of the construction of the Pacific cable, provided that Canada and the Mother Country bore the other five-ninths. Canada said she was ready to bear her part—five-eightieths—if the Mother Country would bear her part—the other five-eightieths. Five-eightieths of a million and a-half amount to £417,000 in round figures. That is what the Mother Country was asked to bear. Now, what is the “liberal offer” that was made by Her Majesty's Government to the Colonies? Not that they would bear five-eightieths of the cost of this cable, or even of the cost of working this cable, but that they would bear five-eightieths of any deficit that might occur from year to year for 20 years up to a sum of £20,000. Before the Mother Country would be called upon to pay its five-eightieths—to pay £20,000 in any single year—the total deficit on the working of this cable would have had to amount to £70,000. Therefore the risk the Mother Country was taking for the next 20 years was not a large one, for we expect the cable will prove a profitable concern. Then the noble Earl said the Mother Country was very generous because it gave up all claim to any part of the profit. Naturally it would if it did not provide any of the money on which the scheme is to be carried out, but by a clause in these provisions it is laid down that the messages of the Imperial Government are to be transmitted in priority to all other messages, at rates not exceeding half the charge made to the general public. To begin with, the Mother Country insists on reducing the profits in respect of the cable, which seems to me commanding a very considerable concession on the part of the Colonies, and I cannot say I am surprised that they consider these conditions by no means satisfactory. I quite agree with my noble friend that these are the conditions that are ordinarily imposed by the Treasury in the case of any enterprise in which they take a part. That is exactly the point. It looks as if these conditions had been framed when the intention of the Mother Country was to take part in the construction of the cable, and pay its portion towards the capital cost, but I do think these conditions are extremely stringent and unfair to the Colonies if all we are to do is to provide, in the event of a deficit, a certain proportion of that deficit.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT (1889) EXTENSION BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

LICENSING (DISQUALIFICATION OF JUSTICES REMOVAL) BILL [Lords].

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a (according to order): Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six of the clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 15th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.**PRIVATE BILLS.**

(Standing Order 62 complied with.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—

WATERFORD AND CENTRAL IRELAND RAILWAY BILL.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

(Standing Orders not previously inquired into complied with.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of

Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

SOUTH HANTS WATER BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

(Standing Orders applicable thereto complied with.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

FISHGUARD AND ROSSLARE RAILWAYS AND HARBOURS BILL.

(Queen's Consent signified.)

Read the third time, and passed.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

GREAT WESTERN AND GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

LONDON, BRIGHTON AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

BURY CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

SKIPTON URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

SOUTHAMPTON CORPORATION WATER BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

Read the third time and passed.

ST. ANDREW'S BURGH PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

BROUGHTY FERRY GAS AND PAVING ORDER BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS CONFIRMATION (ABERAVON, &c.) BILL [Lords].

Read a second time and committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 17).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Carshalton, Gateshead, Merthyr Tydfil, and Newton Abbot,

ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hanbury.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 18).

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Royal Leamington Spa, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hanbury.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under The General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Fleetwood, Innellan, Montrose, and Southwold, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hanbury.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 17) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Carshalton, Gateshead, Merthyr Tydfil, and Newton Abbot," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 200.]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 18) BILL.

"To confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Royal Leamington Spa," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 201.]

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under The General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Fleetwood, Innellan, Montrose, and Southwold," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 202.]

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP J).

Sir Henry Fletcher reported from the Committee on Group J of Private Bills,

That the parties promoting the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill [*Ystradyfodwg (Maerdy) Order*] had stated that the evidence of John William Leyshon, Inspector-in-Chief, Engineer's Department, General Post Office, was essential to their case; and it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said John William Leyshon do attend the said Committee To-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That John William Leyshon do attend the Committee on Group J of Private Bills To-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—

Horsforth Urban District Council (Water) Bill, with Amendments.

Amendment to—

Perth Water, Police, and Gas Bill [*Lords*].

Amendments to—

Bristol Floods Prevention Bill [*Lords*], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further borrowing powers on the Commissioners of the burgh of Wishaw for the purposes of their water undertaking." [*Wishaw Water Bill* [*Lords*].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the sale and disposal of the site of the Church of Emmanuel, West End, Hampstead." [*Hampstead Church (Emmanuel, West End) Bill* [*Lords*].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the transfer of the undertaking of the Gainsborough Gas Company to the Gainsborough Urban District Council, and to confer further powers on the said Council with respect to the supply of gas; and for other purposes." [*Gainsborough Urban District Council (Gas) Bill* [*Lords*].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the limits of supply of the Great Yarmouth Waterworks Company, and to

authorise that Company to construct new works; to raise further money; and for other purposes." [*Great Yarmouth Water Bill* [*Lords*].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Urban District Council of Leigh-on-Sea, in the county of Essex, to construct and maintain gasworks; and for other purposes." [*Leigh-on-Sea Urban District Council Bill* [*Lords*].

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Dundee Gas Commissioners to construct further works; to authorise the widening and improvement of streets and the construction of new tramways; and for other purposes." [*Dundee Gas, Tramways, and Extension Bill* [*Lords*] (changed to "Dundee Gas, Street Improvements, and Tramways Bill [*Lords*].")

WISHAW WATER BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

HAMPSTEAD CHURCH (EMMANUEL, WEST END) BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

GAINSBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (GAS) BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

GREAT YARMOUTH WATER BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

LEIGH-ON-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [*Lords*].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

DUNDEE GAS, TRAMWAYS, AND EXTENSION BILL [*LORDS*], CHANGED TO "DUNDEE GAS, STREET IMPROVEMENTS, AND TRAMWAYS BILL [*Lords*]."

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.**BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872.**

Petition from Northfleet, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Halifax, against ; to lie upon the Table.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petitions in favour ;—From Worsley ;—and, Nelson ; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL

Petitions for alteration ;—From Govan ;—and, Perth ; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

Petition from St. George's, Hanover Square, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From New Whittington ;—Mitchell's Main ;—and, South Wingfield Collieries ; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Perth ;—and, Glasgow ; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW (SCOTLAND) ACTS.

Petition from Paisley, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Perth ;—and, Aberdeen ; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Atcham, against ; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

Petition from Falkirk, against establishment ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From South Heigham ;—Hull ;—Ripon ;—Darlington ;—London ;—Elland and Brighouse ;—

Stockport ;—and, Preston ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Petition from Perth, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table.

SERVICE FRANCHISE BILL.

Petition from Perth, in favour ;—to lie upon the Table.

VACCINATION ACTS, 1867 TO 1898.

Petition from Poplar, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.**COMPANIES (APPLICATIONS FOR RETURNS).**

Return [presented 11th May] to be printed. [No. 197.]

ARMY (PAY, NON-EFFECTIVE PAY, AND ALLOWANCES.

Copy presented,—of List of Exceptions to the Army Regulations sanctioned during the year ended 31st March 1899 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (SUB-POSTMASTERSHIPS HELD BY TRADERS.

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 17th March ; *Mr. Steadman*] ; to lie upon the Table.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS.

Copy presented,—of Report of the Crofters' Commission, being for the year 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (AGRICULTURAL RETURNS).

Copy presented,—of Agricultural Returns for Great Britain, with Statistics for the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and Foreign Countries for 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House :—

MEDWAY CONSERVANCY.

Copy of Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of the Conservators for the year ending 25th March 1899 [by Act].

EDUCATION (FEES FOR PAUPER CHILDREN).

Copy ordered, "of Letters of Education Department sanctioning the imposition of Fees on Pauper Children under Section 4 (1) of the Elementary Education Act, 1891."—(*Mr. Charles Morley.*)

FEE GRANT (SCOTLAND).

Return ordered, "showing in respect of each of the financial years ending the 31st day of March 1890, to the 31st day of March 1899, inclusive, (1) the amount paid into the Bank of England to the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account under Section 1 of The Probate Duties (Scotland and Ireland) Act, 1888, and Sections 20 and 21 of The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889; (2) the payments made to each of the various objects under Sections 19 and 22 of The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, as amended by The Education and Local Taxation (Scotland) Act, 1892, showing separately the balance which fell to be applied as an addition to the fee grant; (3) the average attendance of children on the annual grant list entitled to the fee grant; (4) the total amount distributed in payment of fee grant under the foregoing Acts, and also under The Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890, including, and stating separately, after the financial year ending the 31st day of March 1892, the amount paid out of moneys provided by Parliament towards relief of school fees under the Act of 1892; and (5) the amount per head of average attendance paid as fee grant."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

QUESTIONS.

SHIPS' OFFICES.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he is aware that in ships of the "Majestic" class the ship's office is half way forward on the lower deck, in bad light, and a considerable distance from any sentry's post; and whether, in view of the desirability of safeguarding the public money and ship's records, steps will be taken to select a more appropriate site.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's,

Hanover Square): The ship's office in the "Majestic" class is not on the lower deck. It is on the main deck, at a considerable height above water, and in a good position for light and ventilation. The office is situated immediately before the officers' cabins. The safeguarding of public money and ships' records is not prejudiced by the present position of the office.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Have any representations been received by the Admiralty in regard to this matter?

MR. GOSCHEN: Not to my knowledge, but I will inquire.

ROYAL NAVY WRITERS.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he can state the number of third writers in ships of the Royal Navy filling the post of second writers, and the number of second writers filling the post of chief writers; and, whether it is intended to fill up existing vacancies by means of the present automatic system of promotion, from one class to another, upon the completion of certain service.

MR. GOSCHEN: According to latest reports, 63 third writers are employed in lieu of second writers, and 13 second writers in lieu of chief writers. The answer to the second question is in the affirmative, so far as circumstances allow.

ARMY ESTABLISHMENT STATISTICS.

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, what number below establishment the cavalry, mounted artillery, garrison artillery, guards, and infantry, at home and abroad respectively were on 31st March, 1898; and, how many below establishment they respectively were on 31st March, 1899.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. GEORGE WYNDHAM, Dover): I assume that the honourable and gallant Member wishes to know the progress made during the year towards the ultimate establishments aimed at, which were given in the Estimates for 1898-9, but not in the Estimates for 1897-8. The ultimate establishment for the cavalry of the line is 18,559; for the horse and field artillery, 21,144; for the garrison artillery, 22,717; for the foot

guards, 8,765; for the infantry of the line, 148,272. On the 31st March, 1898, the cavalry of the line was 822 below this establishment. On the 31st March, 1899, 501 below it. The horse and field artillery fell short by 2,805 in 1898, and by 2,085 in 1899. The garrison artillery 3,293 in 1898, and 2,138 in 1899. The foot guards 1,948 in 1898, and 1,274 in 1899. The infantry of the line 12,421 in 1898, and 8,135 in 1899.

ARTILLERY HORSES.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what is the average age of field battery horses on the Home establishment, of the royal horse artillery, and of the cavalry.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The average ages of the horses are as follows:—Cavalry 8 years and 10 months, royal horse artillery 9 years, field artillery 8 years and 10 months.

BRITISH OFFICERS IN INDIA.

MAJOR RASCH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, whether he is aware that lieutenant-colonels of the Royal Engineers and other senior officers ordered to India for a term of service are deprived of rank and seniority by being ordered to serve in subordinate positions in the M. W. Department, while continuous service juniors are placed above them; and, by what statutory authority is regimental seniority ignored.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I am not aware of any cases in which lieutenant-colonels and other senior officers of Royal Engineers ordered to India have been placed under their juniors; the present organisation of the Military Works Department in India is about to be changed, but it has been decided, with the concurrence of the War Office, that, so long as it is maintained, an officer must accept the grading to which the Government of India think it right to post him, provided that he shall not be called on to serve directly under an officer junior to him regimentally.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN EXPENDITURE.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAG-GREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.) I beg to

ask the First Lord of the Treasury, if he can state to the House why the Royal Commissioners on Indian Expenditure, appointed in 1895, have not made their Report; and, whether it is to be hoped that the Commissioners will make their Report without further delay.

*LORD G. HAMILTON: I have already explained in replies to various questions that I have no power over the proceedings of this Commission; but the present condition of things can be best explained by the letter which I have had addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, which I will read:

"I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to call your attention to the fact that the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into Indian expenditure held its last meeting upon July 27th, 1897, after which day it adjourned.

"A period of nearly two years has therefore elapsed, during which no meetings have been held, nor, so far as the Secretary of State can ascertain, has any material advance been made towards the adoption of a report upon the matters referred to the Commission for investigation.

"This delay is a matter of much regret to Her Majesty's Government.

"Lord George Hamilton therefore requests that you should communicate this letter to every member of the Commission in order that they may inform him whether, and if so, when, they propose by the submission of a report to Her Majesty, to discharge the functions entrusted to them; and on receipt of their replies he will consider what advice he should submit to the Queen, through the Home Secretary, as to the continuance of the Commission.

"Considerable inconvenience has already been caused to this Department, from its inability to settle various outstanding financial questions which were specially referred to the Commission for their opinion."

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAG-GREE: Has any answer been received?

*LORD G. HAMILTON: No; the letter has only just been sent.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Who was chairman of this Commission?

*LORD G. HAMILTON: I think my honourable friend can ascertain.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I am trying to.

*LORD G. HAMILTON: The chairman is Lord Welby.

INDIAN P.W. DEPARTMENT.

MR. HUDSON (Herts, Hitchin): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, whether he has received a petition from Mr. A. S. Russell, of the Indian P.W. Department, dated May, 1898; whether this correctly represents the position of the officers sent out to India from the Cooper's Hill Engineering College during the first three or four years; and, whether he proposes to take any steps to remedy the grievances from which this officer and his contemporaries appear to suffer from want of promotion, and which was not considered by the Select Committee of the House in 1890.

*LORD G. HAMILTON: Memorials have been received from Mr. A. S. Russell and other officers of the Indian Public Works Department who were recruited from the Royal Indian Engineering College in the years 1874-76. The contents of these memorials are now engaging my attention, but I can say nothing as to the decision which may be arrived at.

BRITISH TRADE WITH MADAGASCAR.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in view of the views expressed by the Prime Minister in his despatches to Sir E. Monson, of 9th and 20th July of last year, that the action of the French Government in greatly increasing the import duties upon the principal articles of British manufacture was a further infraction of British rights in Madagascar, and inconsistent with the international rights of this country and with the assurances given by the Government of the Republic, and must inevitably kill the greater part of British trade with Madagascar, whether it is the case that the declared value of British goods exported from this country to Madagascar during the first quarter of this year was less than one-eighth of the value exported in the corresponding period of 1896; whether, in accordance with the promise of M. Delcassé made last July, that he would lose no time in answering the representation made by Lord Salisbury, any reply has been received; and, if so, what is the nature of it; and, what action Her Majesty's Government is taking to protect and enforce British rights in Madagascar.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I am afraid I can add nothing to the replies which I have made on several occasions during the present session respecting the action of the French Government in respect of British trade in Madagascar.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Then no answer has been received.

TURKEY AND THE ARMENIAN BISHOPS.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether Her Majesty's Government will represent to the Sultan the injury done to the Armenian archbishop and bishops, who are forcibly detained in the monastery of St. James at Jerusalem without trial, and without knowing for what offences they have been exiled from their dioceses; and, whether, seeing that those prelates are men of high character, the Secretary of State will communicate on the subject with the Powers which are parties to Articles 61 and 62 of the Berlin Treaty.

*MR. BRODRICK: We have no information as to the detention of the Armenian archbishops and bishops referred to.

CHINESE CUSTOMS TARIFF—TREATY OF TIENSIN.

SIR MARK STEWART (Kirkcudbright): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the negotiations with the Chinese Government for the revision of the tariff of customs duties under the Treaty of Tientsin are proceeding; and whether he can give the House any information as to their progress.

*MR. BRODRICK: Notice was given by the Chinese Government in April, 1898, under Article XXVII., of the Treaty of Tientsin, of their desire for a revision of the tariff, but no proposals have since been received from them on the subject, and no negotiations are at present in progress.

RAILWAY CONCESSIONS IN CHINA.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (York, W.R. Barnsley): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether

he can give the House any information as to the reported application of the Russo-Chinese Bank for a concession to construct a railway from Niuchwang or some other point on the Trans-Manchurian Railway to Pekin, *via* Shan-hai-kwan, under similar conditions to the Russian Trans-Manchurian Railway, and whether the influence of Her Majesty's Government will be used to prevent such a duplication of railways between Niuchwang and Pekin as would divert the traffic from the Northern Extension line now being constructed with British capital.

MR. BRODRICK: Her Majesty's *Chargé d'Affaires* at Pekin has reported that a demand by the Russian Government is stated to have been made to the Yamén, but we have no information as to the point on the Trans-Manchurian line from which the line is proposed to be made to Pekin. The Yamén up to the present have declined to grant the concession. Until the whole facts are before them Her Majesty's Government can make no pronouncement on the subject.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the intention of Russia to extend her Trans-Manchurian railway system to Pekin, and thus connect it with the railway already constructed by Russian capital southwards to Pao-ting, Her Majesty's Government will now take steps to have the basin of the Yang-tsze, referred to in the Anglo-Russian agreement, clearly defined.

MR. BRODRICK: The proposed extension of the Manchurian Railway to Pekin does not really affect the basin of the Yang-tsze, as to which Her Majesty's Government recently entered into agreement with the Russian Government.

MR. J. WALTON: Arising out of the reply, may I be allowed to ask the right honourable Gentleman whether the construction of a railway by Russia to Pekin, enabling her to connect her Manchurian system of railways with the railway already built with Russian capital from Pekin southwards to Pao-ting—

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

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JAMAICA AND ITS RAILWAYS.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the conditions on which the Government of Jamaica has acquired and taken over the railway in that island, and the delay that has occurred in carrying out the colonial obligations involved; and whether he will take steps to press on the colony the duty of no further delay in the matter.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The Government of Jamaica has not yet acquired and taken over the railway. An order has been made for the winding up of the railway company, and as soon as the accounts in the winding up have been taken the court will have to make an order vesting the railway in the Colonial Government. In the meantime the trustees of the mortgage bond holders are in possession of the railway. There has been no delay on the part of the Government in carrying out its obligations.

ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATION WITH LIGHTSHIPS.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, having regard to the necessity for electrical communication with lightships stationed off the coast of the United Kingdom, will he state why the sum of £663 2s. 11d. of the Grant in aid for electrical communication with lightships was not expended during the financial year 1897-8.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The sum referred to by the honourable Member was the balance of the Grant in aid for electrical communication with lightships not expended during the financial year 1896-7, not 1897-8, as would appear from the honourable Member's question. This sum was not expended during 1896-7 because part of the work for which it was voted could not be completed within that year. It was carried forward to 1897-8, and spent in that year.

SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT TYPISTS.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, West): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the
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Committee of Council on Education whether a temporary clerical assistant has been in charge of the typing room at the Department of Science and Art for about two years; and whether, seeing that there are several established clerks in the Department qualified to occupy the position in question, most of them having much longer service and lesser present remuneration than the temporary clerical assistant in question, the President will inquire into this matter, and in particular into the method by which the temporary clerical assistant was appointed to the said post.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (SIR J. GORST, Cambridge University): The clerical assistant referred to was placed in charge of the typewriting room about four years ago, because of his general efficiency and special qualifications. He has been retained in that position ever since, because he has done his work most efficiently and is believed to be the best qualified in the office.

EDUCATION ESTIMATES—THE 17s. 6d. LIMIT.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he can state approximately the amount by which the Education Estimates for the years ending 31st March 1898 and 1899 were increased owing to the repeal, by Section 2 of The Voluntary Schools Act 1897, of the 17s. 6d. limit.

SIR J. GORST: The Estimates for the former year were framed before the repeal of the 17s. 6d. limit; and it is impossible to say how much of the rise in the Estimates for the latter year was due to the repeal. It seems probable that the amount of the deduction in each of the two years, if the limit had remained in force, would have been between £60,000 and £70,000.

WILLINGTON (DURHAM) BOARD SCHOOL.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that the head master of the Willington Board School (Durham) was, on the 9th of March (by letter from

the Education Department), threatened with the withholding of the annual grant, unless he fills up the school attendance cards with the names of the children of out-door paupers; and, whether he will state under which statute such threat was made, and by which statute it is intended to carry out the threat.

SIR J. GORST: The Guardians of the Durham Union represented to the Education Department that the sheets showing the attendance of children of out-door paupers at the Willington Board School were not received. The Education Department informed the Willington School Board that, if the refusal to fill up these sheets was persisted in they would consider whether they could continue to make annual grants to the school. No threat was addressed to the master of the school. The Education Department have power to call for returns and information from a School Board under Section 95 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870.

WIMBLEDON DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. YOXALL: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been drawn to an irregularity alleged to have occurred in connection with the recent election of the Wimbledon District Council; whether he is aware that one of the presiding officers declined to permit a sworn agent to tape and seal one of the ballot boxes, a measure of precaution adopted in other cases; and, whether he has made inquiry into this matter.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.): The Local Government Board have no jurisdiction with regard to the proceedings at the recent election of district councillors at Wimbledon, and no authority to inquire into the matter. I am, however, informed by the Returning Officer that it appears that one of the presiding officers omitted to lock a ballot-box before sealing it and afterwards broke the seal in order to lock the box. The returning officer adds that there is no reason for supposing that the presiding officer was actuated by any fraudulent intention, and that on verification of his ballot paper account all the ballot papers were duly accounted for. With regard to the second paragraph of the question the Returning Officer states

Mr. Yoxall.

that he was informed by the presiding officer that at the opening of the poll he declined to permit a candidate (not an agent as suggested) to affix his seal to the ballot-box. I am, however, advised that neither a candidate nor an agent has any legal right to claim to affix his seal to the ballot box at this stage of the proceedings.

EMIGRATION OF PAUPER CHILDREN TO CANADA.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether he can inform the House how many pauper children were emigrated to Canada during 1898; and whether he can state which Boards had sent children, and how many each of such Boards had sent respectively, and also by which of the accredited agencies.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Seventy-eight pauper children were emigrated to Canada in 1898, by 31 boards of guardians, through 10 agencies. If the honourable Member desires it I shall be happy to give him a statement as to the particular boards of guardians sending children and the agencies through whom they were sent.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1897.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the decision of the Court of Appeal that poor appellants to the Court of Appeal from decisions of county court judges, acting as arbitrators under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, may be required to give security for costs before being allowed to prosecute their appeals; whether he is aware that persons appealing by way of new trial in cases tried by high court judges with juries cannot be required to give any security for the costs of the appeal; and, whether, in view of the importance of enabling workmen or their representatives to obtain high judicial authority on complicated questions of the construction of the Workmen's Compensation Act, he will undertake to make representations to the rule authority as to the advisability of making a rule dispensing with the necessity of giving security for costs when they desire to appeal.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancs, Blackpool): My attention has been called to the decision referred to, and I am aware that in applications for a new trial—which, I may observe, are not, strictly speaking, appeals—it is not the practice to require security for costs. As regards the third paragraph of the question I have to say that, after consulting with the Lord Chancellor, in accordance with the promise given by my right honourable friend the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, in my behalf on the 7th March, I do not see my way to make to the Rules Committee the proposal suggested by the honourable Member.

METROPOLITAN POLICE PENSIONS—EX-CONSTABLE UPPERTON.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the case of ex-Police Constable Frederick Upperton, who, on retirement from the Metropolitan Police Force after more than 25 years' service, has been granted a pension based upon the amount of his pay as police constable for 52 weeks in the year, exclusive of the extra pay of 1s. a day granted to constables on duty at the Houses of Parliament; and if, having regard to the number of constables employed on similar duty, and in receipt of the same extra pay, and the desirability of getting a legal decision upon the matter, he will adopt the course taken in the case of ex-Inspector Ruff by the right honourable the Member for East Fife when Home Secretary, and will give facilities for the matter to be brought before the Court of Quarter Sessions, and will pay such reasonable costs as ex-Police Constable Upperton may incur in obtaining a legal decision on a matter affecting all constables on duty at the Houses of Parliament.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: My attention has been called to this case, but I should not feel justified in adopting the course suggested. The circumstances on the occasion referred to by my honourable friend were very different.

FALSE VACCINATION CERTIFICATES—PROSECUTION OF DR LAMONT.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Secretary to

the Treasury whether he will state the amount of fees paid to Dr. Mackenzie for reports made at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal of Lochmaddy in connection with the prosecution of Dr. Lamont, recently public vaccinator in the Island of Uist, for issuing false vaccination certificates, and the amount, if any, paid him for giving evidence at Dr. Lamont's trial at Inverness on the 15th of March last.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): From the Procurator-Fiscal at Lochmaddy Dr. Mackenzie received 16 guineas for medical inspections in September and October, 1899, being payment at two guineas a day for eight days' work (inclusive of subsistence). He also received £4 15s. 6d. for travelling expenses. From the Procurator-Fiscal at Inverness he received 16 guineas for eight days' work and £3 13s. 1d. for travelling. The charges are still subject to audit.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, with reference to the arrest of Dr. Lamont on 17th September, 1898, whether he is aware that Dr. Lamont denies that he was ever informed that he should be arrested if he left the island of Uist, and asserts that in deference to Police Sergeant Philip's request he remained in the island for nearly a week after the date of the first warrant issued against him, and that before leaving he asked Sergeant Philip whether there was anything to prevent his doing so, and was informed by him that there was not; whether Sergeant Philip ever received the warrant of 10th September for Dr. Lamont's arrest; and, with reference to Dr. Lamont's attempted re-arrest on 8th December, whether at that date Dr. Lamont was out on bail; if so, whether either the bailee or bailor was, between the issue of the new warrant on 25th October and the date of his attempted re-arrest, informed that Dr. Lamont's re-arrest was contemplated; whether he is aware that neither Dr. Lamont nor his law agent knew of the existence of a warrant dated 25th October until it was mentioned in the House on the 8th instant; whether the police officer in Glasgow, who proceeded to Dr. Lamont's mother's house, for the purpose of arresting him, on 8th December had been furnished with the warrant of 25th October for Dr. Lamont's arrest; and, whether

Sir Charles Cameron.

the information sent to the Crown Office to the effect that Dr. Lamont's agent would be responsible for his appearing for trial, on which the Crown Office ordered that Dr. Lamont should not be re-arrested, was sent to the Crown Office by the Procurator-Fiscal at Lochmaddy or by Mr. Kennedy, Dr. Lamont's agent.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. G. MURRAY, Buteshire): I accept the facts of the first paragraph from the honourable Member; I have recently received statements from Dr. Lamont's agent to a similar effect. In regard to all the points raised in the second, third and fourth paragraphs of the question I have no accurate knowledge, and in no case, whether answered in the affirmative or the negative, would any one of these points be material. In reply to the last paragraph the information was received by the Crown Office from Dr. Lamont's agents.

DEDUCTIONS FROM NAVAL AND MILITARY PENSIONS.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, seeing that the amount obtained by the deductions from the pensions of naval and military officers in civil employment amounts to only about £3,600, and seeing that the Act which gives authority for the said deduction is permissive, he will consider the advisability of remitting these deductions in future.

*MR. HANBURY: It is not the case that Section 6 Sub-section (1) of the Superannuation Act would permit the remission of these deductions in future. The section provides that "the Treasury may frame rules" within one month after the passing of the Act, but when once the rules have been framed they become statutory; and, as no power is given to vary or alter them, a change could not be made except by fresh legislation.

IRISH MAIL CONTRACTS.

MR. P. O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, when will the present contract with the London and North Western Railway Company for the carriage of Irish and American mails between London and Holyhead terminate; what is the amount paid for the carriage of these mails to the

London and North Western Company; whether any negotiations have yet been opened for the arrangement of a fresh contract; and whether, before any contract is agreed upon, he will state the proposed terms to the House.

MR. HANBURY: The contract may now be terminated at any time by twelve calendar months' notice on either side. The payment under the contract is £63,000 a year, but the contract covers not only the carriage of the Irish and American mails between London and Holyhead, but all other services over the Chester and Holyhead section of the Company's lines, and the amount specially applicable to the Irish and American service cannot therefore be separately stated. A payment of £5,150 a year, over and above the contract payment of £63,000, has been made since 1st April 1897, in respect of the acceleration of the Irish night mail trains, and a further payment of £8,500 a year (which is not, however, borne on the Post Office Votes) has been made since 1st August last in respect of the acceleration of the Irish day mail trains. No negotiations have been opened, or are at present contemplated, for the arrangement of a fresh contract. It is not usual to submit the terms of contracts for the conveyance of mails by railway to the House, and it cannot be stated beforehand whether any necessity for an exceptional course of procedure will arise in connection with the renewal of the contract referred to by the honourable Member.

THE BRITISH POSTMASTER AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

MR. DUNCOMBE (Cumberland, Egremont): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether the gentleman recently appointed a British Postmaster at Constantinople is the same gentleman who, while postmaster at Kingston-on-Thames and Lincoln, was reported for serious irregularities with regard to his official cash, and transferred from the latter office in consequence of the serious nature of such irregularities; and, upon what grounds he has now been rewarded by being selected over the heads of others with good records and longer service.

MR. HANBURY: The gentleman appointed British Postmaster at Constanti-

nople, who has rendered good service in the Post Office for nearly 30 years, is the same official who, after holding the Postmastership of Kingston-on-Thames for some years, was promoted to be Postmaster of Lincoln. The Postmaster-General informs me that he was not concerned in "serious irregularities" at Kingston, as stated in the question, but, that he was concerned in a single irregularity which occurred at Lincoln under very exceptional circumstances, and that that was suitably noticed at the time. He was afterwards transferred to another office at his own request, and not in consequence, I understand, of this irregularity. He has now been appointed to Constantinople on the ground that his qualifications for the position were, in the Postmaster-General's opinion, superior to those of any one of the other candidates who offered themselves.

MR. DUNCOMBE: Can the right honourable Gentleman say whether the irregularity in question did not consist of his using momentarily a large portion of official cash?

MR. HANBURY: What did happen was this, and although it was not a case of fraud I did look on it as a case of serious irregularity. It was discovered when he was on leave of absence that about £150 of Government property which should have been represented by hard cash, was only represented by a cheque drawn by the postmaster.

TELEGRAPHIC DELAYS AT OLDHAM.

MR. ASCROFT (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether his attention has been called to the great inconvenience suffered by the inhabitants of Oldham through the great length of time that it takes to transmit a telegraphic message to that town; whether he has been informed that during the last month a message handed in at Fallowfield at 5.8 only reached Oldham at 5.41; that a message handed in at Worcester at 1.0 only reached Oldham at 3.45; that a message handed in at the Crystal Palace at 4.57 only reached Oldham at 5.29; whilst one handed in at the Crystal Palace on the 9th instant at 12.30 only reached Oldham at 5.9 the same evening, the time taken being over 4½ hours for a distance under 200 miles;

and, whether he will take steps to improve the telegraphic communication with Oldham.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster-General is not aware of any general complaint in regard to delay in the transmission of telegrams to Oldham. The telegram of the 9th instant was accidentally overlooked at the Crystal Palace. The Postmaster-General regrets any inconvenience to which this may have given rise; and has taken suitable notice of the want of care displayed by his officers. The other telegrams referred to in the question have not been traced, but if the honourable Member will furnish the dates on which they were handed in and the names of the senders or addressees, enquiry shall be made and the result communicated to him. The telegraphic communication with Oldham has recently come under review, and there does not at present appear to be sufficient reason for putting up fresh lines or altering the present circuit arrangements, but the matter shall be kept in view in case there should be any fresh development.

THE TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION) BILL.

MR. COMPTON RICKETT (Scarborough): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is the intention of the Government to proceed with the Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication, &c.) Bill this session; if so, whether he can state when the Second Reading of the Bill will be taken; I beg at the same time to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether the Government could make the provisions of the Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication, &c.) Bill applicable to non-county boroughs as well as to county boroughs; failing this, whether the Government would give special consideration to the cases of those non-county boroughs whose rateable value exceeds that of some of the county boroughs.

***MR. HANBURY:** I am sorry if the Telegraphs Bill has been delayed owing to my absence; but I hope that the Second Reading will be taken soon after Whitsuntide. It is intended to make the provisions of the Bill extend to urban sanitary districts, subject, of course to the discretion of the Postmaster-General in individual cases.

Mr. Ascroft.

BALLYMONEY POST OFFICE.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that much inconvenience is experienced by the people of Ballymoney owing to the inconvenient position of the post office in that town, and whether the Postmaster-General has received a memorial from the inhabitants on this subject; whether he is aware that the letters by the two first mails for Belfast are collected from the pillar-box in the main street, Ballymoney, more than an hour before the mail starts; and, whether he will have these grievances of the people of Ballymoney remedied.

MR. HANBURY: The post office at Ballymoney has been for upwards of 18 years in its present position, which is considered to be reasonably convenient for the inhabitants generally. The memorial referred to by the honourable Member was duly received and considered. The Postmaster-General is aware of the arrangements for collections of letters as described by the honourable Member, but he finds that the circumstances do not admit of later collections. He is assured, however, that no serious inconvenience is caused, as both the letter-boxes in question are within three or four minutes' walk of the post office.

CAMPBILL SCHOOL, PAISLEY.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been called to the fact that at the labour certificate examination held at Campbill School, Paisley, on the 7th ult., out of a total of 217 applicants for pass certificates in Standards 3 and 5 only 100 passed; whether, when teachers were paid by the results of these examinations 90 to 100 per cent. of applicants passed, against only 46 per cent. at the last examination, the examination papers at such examinations have been made more difficult than formerly; and, whether he has any objection to lay upon the Table a copy of the examination papers used at the examination on the 7th ult.

MR. A. G. MURRAY: No communication has been received from the School Board as to the matter referred to in the honourable Member's question. It is not surprising that the results of a general examination of the school showed better

average results than the examination of those candidates who are presented for the labour certificate, who, it is hoped, represent only those who desire to leave school before obtaining the merit certificate. Such examinations are not, as a rule, conducted by means of papers, and it would not therefore be possible to follow the course proposed in the last paragraph of the question.

SEA FISHERIES REGULATION (SCOTLAND) ACT.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, will he explain why, under the Sea Fisheries Regulation (Scotland) Act, 1895, no fishing district has been created or any fishery committee formed in Scotland, whereas under the English Act of 1888 numerous fishing districts and committees have been formed; and, whether the Scotch Act has been inoperative owing to the restriction at the end of Section 5, Sub-section (1); and, whether the Government will promote or will favour legislation to remove this restriction.

MR. A. G. MURRAY: The initiative is in the Act left to the locality. One locality only applied since the passing of the Act, but the Applicants failed to obtain the necessary consents of the local assessing bodies. The cases of England and Scotland are not analogous in this matter, and the same necessity for district committees does not exist in Scotland. It is possible that the section referred to in the Act may have contributed to the result, but there are many other contributory reasons. The Government are not at present prepared to promote legislation on the subject.

SCOTCH EDUCATION REPORT.

MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, when the annual Report of the Committee of Council on Scotch Education will be printed and in the hands of Members?

MR. A. G. MURRAY: The Report of the Scotch Education Department is nearly completed, and it is hoped that it will be in the hands of Members when the House meets after the Whitsuntide recess.

NEW STAMP DUTIES ON LOANS.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

whether he has received a communication from the Glasgow Corporation as to the effect of Clause 7 of the Finance Bill; whether it was intended that the new duty on allotted capital therein proposed shall be paid once for all in the exercise by local authorities of the borrowing powers which would increase their capital indebtedness, or whether it will fall to be paid upon every sum which was borrowed by local authority; whether such sum is a new loan increasing the indebtedness of the authority, or merely the sum required to replace an old loan which fell to be renewed, or a new loan in respect of which a loan duty may already have been paid; whether, under Sub-sections 1 and 5 of the said clause it is intended that every time stock, funded debt, or bills are issued, or money borrowed from the bank, such issue or borrowing shall be liable to the new duty; and, if not, whether he will insert words in the clause to make it clear that is not the tendency of the proposed enactment.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): It is provided in Clause 7 of the Finance Bill that in the case of money borrowed on duly stamped mortgages the duty paid on the mortgage shall be allowed for. Money permanently borrowed to replace an old loan would attract the duty; but the clause is not intended to apply to money borrowed temporarily by short bills or from bankers. I do not think it does so apply; but if necessary I should not object to the insertion of words to make the matter clear.

IRISH INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATIONS.

MR. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the programme and rules for the Intermediate Examinations of 1900 have been ready since the 1st January, and are due about the 1st April; and, as these rules will prescribe books of which editions have yet to be prepared, if he will press on the Commissioners the early publication of the programme and rules, in view of the re-opening of the various schools in August.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The rules and programme of

the Board of Intermediate Education for any year are usually published about the 1st of April of the preceding year, but it is not the fact that the rules and programme for 1900 have been ready since the 1st January last. I am informed by the Assistant Commissioners that the Board have deemed it advisable to delay the publication of the rules and programme for next year in view of the Commission of Inquiry, now sitting, into the system of Intermediate Education in Ireland.

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MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot. The matter is not under my control.

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MR. LOUGH asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

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with on Clause 15, which offers a better opportunity for its discussion.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) agreed that the object of this Amendment could be better attained on Clause 15.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said that a special Act was introduced not very long ago in order to enable certain Scotch counties to exercise similar powers to those contained in the Amendment which he was now proposing. He also wished it to be within the power of the borough council to have the power to co-operate with neighbouring boards of guardians to appoint joint committees to deal with matters in which they were jointly interested. The desirability of such power being granted was especially impressed upon his mind upon occasions when distress existed in the metropolis, and when it had been found necessary to provide some means of giving employment to those who would otherwise have remained unemployed. It had been found that the Boards of Guardians were not exactly the authorities best qualified to set men to work, for they had not the necessary machinery, whereas it had been found that the neighbouring vestry might very well carry out the object which was desired by a mere extension of the existing system. In those circumstances, he thought it would be very convenient to give the power which was sought by his Amendment, which he begged to move.

Amendment proposed, in page 6, after line 30, to add the words—

“Any two or more Borough Councils, or any Borough Council or Councils, and any Board or Boards of Guardians in the metropolis, may from time to time concur in appointing out of their respective bodies a joint committee for any purpose in respect of which they are jointly interested, and may confer on any such committee any power which the appointing Council or Board might exercise for the purpose for which the committee is appointed.”—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed—

“That those words be there added.”

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I sympathise with the object which the honourable Gentleman has in view, but I do not think the words he proposes will do,

partly because they introduce the Poor Law authorities, which I do not think should be included in this Bill. The honourable Member has probably in his mind the section of the Act of 1894 which dealt, in the case of the parish councils, with an analogous problem with which he tries to deal here. The question was then thoroughly threshed out, and I would suggest that he should move it in that form. If he will do so, I shall be able to accept it. It would be in the following form:—

“Section 57 of the Local Government Act of 1894, which relates to joint committees, shall apply to Borough Councils as if they were District Councils.”

MR. PICKERSGILL said he was much obliged to the right honourable Gentleman for his offer, but he could not accept his suggestion. In moving this Amendment, what he was really anxious for was power to bring in the boards of guardians to enable them to co-operate with the neighbouring council in times of distress. That was his main object, and he did not see how he could accept the right honourable Gentleman's suggestion unless he would incorporate what he had suggested with regard to boards of guardians.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Even if such an Amendment is in order, I think it really goes outside the scope of the Bill in spirit, if not in form.

MR. STUART thought the proposal of his honourable friend was a very valuable provision, the necessity for which occurred at the time of very hard frosts, when the co-operation of the vestries and boards of guardians had been urgently desired by persons interested in philanthropic movements.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) asked the right honourable Gentleman to bring up the clause he had suggested upon the Report stage.

MR. LOUGH thought the right honourable Gentleman would readily admit that both the guardians and the borough councils dealt very frequently with the same areas. Without pressing the matter too far, he thought everyone would feel that there were occasions on which these two bodies impinged a little on one another's duties. The proposal was that

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

the two should be empowered to appoint a joint committee. There was a great deal of work which was common to the two bodies, and he should be glad to hear from the right honourable Gentleman whether the Government would recognise this principle at the present stage.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) asked if they might take it that the Government would propose the clause which had been suggested by the First Lord of the Treasury. He did not think that it was desirable that they should interfere with the boards of guardians at all in this Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The arguments of honourable Gentlemen opposite have not altered my view upon this matter, which is, that we must leave to the boards of guardians the whole responsibility in connection with the administration of the Poor Law. I do not think any exception should be made, and I rather imagine that in certain exceptional cases those honourable Gentlemen who are anxious to see this change might confer informally with the local authority, and co-operate with them in some way not distinctly specified to give relief. I think, however, that the whole responsibility should rest with the boards of guardians, and I should be sorry to see any such change introduced into this Bill as that suggested by the honourable Member in his Amendment.

MR. STUART desired to point out that the Amendment did not necessitate the handing over of the powers of the guardians to the local councils, which only arose when the vestry endeavoured to give employment to the unemployed. There was a difficulty in discriminating between the really genuine unemployed person and the loafer, and it was only by co-operation with the guardians that a movement of this kind could work satisfactorily. This proposal was to meet a specific case, and there was no desire to take over any powers out of the hands of the guardians and transfer them to the council, which was a matter upon which there would be a great difference of opinion on both sides of the House.

MR. PICKERSGILL said he desired now to take the judgment of the Committee upon the question.

MR. COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin) thought that the object desired by the honourable Gentleman opposite was one of considerable value, and he thought it might be met by enabling a committee of the council to be appointed with power to add to their number. Although he did not think it was advisable to bring in outside members, he thought that in this particular case it might be appropriate to

give the council power to co-opt two or three of the best known members of the board of guardians in that particular district.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 94; Noes, 162. (Division List No. 144.)

AYES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Hy.
Austin, Sir John (York-hire)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Baker, Sir John
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Colville, John
Crombie, John William
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davitt, Michael
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gold Charles

Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Gray, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea)
Jones, William (Carnarvon)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U.
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumberland)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Macalister, Daniel
MacArthur, William (Cornwall)
McKenna, Reginald
McLeod, John
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark

Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
Pease, Joseph A. (Northum.)
Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Reckitt, Harold James
Rickett, J. Compton
Robson, William Snowdon
Schwann, Charles E.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ura, Alexander
Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Woodall, William
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
Mr. Pickersgill and Mr.
James Stuart.

NOES.

Acland-Hood Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bazot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarras, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith
Bartley, George C. T. (Hunts)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beresford, Lord Charles
Bethell, Commander
Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
Biddulph, Michael
Bill, Charles

Blakiston-Houston, John
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
Carlike, William Walter
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chelms, Viscount
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. (Athole)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edw. B. (Harrow)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cruddas, William Donaldson

Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Powder, Sir John P.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Farrell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Folkestone, Viscount
Fry, Lewis
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gunter, Colonel
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George

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*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) agreed that the object of this Amendment could be better attained on Clause 15.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said that a special Act was introduced not very long ago in order to enable certain Scotch counties to exercise similar powers to those contained in the Amendment which he was now proposing. He also wished it to be within the power of the borough council to have the power to co-operate with neighbouring boards of guardians to appoint joint committees to deal with matters in which they were jointly interested. The desirability of such power being granted was especially impressed upon his mind upon occasions when distress existed in the metropolis, and when it had been found necessary to provide some means of giving employment to those who would otherwise have remained unemployed. It had been found that the Boards of Guardians were not exactly the authorities best qualified to set men to work, for they had not the necessary machinery, whereas it had been found that the neighbouring vestry might very well carry out the object which was desired by a mere extension of the existing system. In those circumstances, he thought it would be very convenient to give the power which was sought by his Amendment, which he begged to move.

Amendment proposed, in page 6, after line 30, to add the words—

“Any two or more Borough Councils, or any Borough Council or Councils, and any Board or Boards of Guardians in the metropolis, may from time to time concur in appointing out of their respective bodies a joint committee for any purpose in respect of which they are jointly interested, and may confer on any such committee any power which the appointing Council or Board might exercise for the purpose for which the committee is appointed.”—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed—

“That those words be there added.”

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I sympathise with the object which the honourable Gentleman has in view, but I do not think the words he proposes will do,

Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Hill, Arthur (Down, W.)
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Captain Herbt. Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (Kent)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Maclean, James Mackenzie

M'Calmont, H. L. B. (Camba.)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb'gh, W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Marks, Henry Hananel
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptf'rd)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Percy, Earl
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.

Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Henry M.
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, George
 Wyville, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Amendment proposed, in page 6, after line 30, to add

"Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1894, which relates to joint committees, shall apply to borough councils as if they were district councils."—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

MR. LOUGH said that they had not yet received any explanation of these words.

MR. PICKERSGILL contended that, his Amendment having been defeated, the proposal now made by the Government was out of order.

*THE CHAIRMAN: There is a substantial difference between the two motions, and this proposal is quite in order.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10:—

An Amendment made.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER (St. Pancras, E.) said that on behalf of the honourable Member for Westminster, who was not in

his place, he desired to move the Amendment on the Paper. This was not a general rate, and he thought it would be better to call it the borough rate, for the term "general" was too restricted. Upon those grounds he moved this Amendment.

Amendment proposed, in Clause 10, page 6, line 33,—

"To leave out 'the general,' and insert 'a rate to be called the borough.'"—(Mr. R. G. Webster.)

Question proposed—

"That the words 'the general' stand part of the clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As my honourable and learned friend has observed, this is simply a verbal Amendment, but I think the words of the Bill are more accurate than the words proposed in the Amendment, because the rate referred to is really not a borough rate, and therefore the word "general" is more accurate.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH moved to omit from Sub-Section 1, in line 35, the following words:—

"But shall make provision for protecting the interests of the occupiers of any heredita-

ment which is exempt from any rate or liable to be assessed thereto at a less amount than the occupiers of other hereditaments."

He thought that this was a very large power to give to those who might be responsible under this Act. There were a great many anomalies in London at present with regard to rating, and surely the opportunity afforded by this Bill was a good opportunity to remedy them by Act of Parliament.

Amendment proposed, in page 6, line 35—

"To leave out the words from the word 'rate,' to the end of sub-section 1."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words 'but shall make provision for protecting the interests of' stand part of the clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The honourable Gentleman expresses some doubt as to the intention of the four lines which he desires to omit. Surely that intention is quite clear. There are certain kinds of property which, for one reason or another, are exempted and founded upon statute with regard to part of the rates. We do not provide by this clause that those exemptions shall last in perpetuity, but we do provide in those four lines to which the honourable Gentleman objects that the interested occupier of those hereditaments shall be protected. I cannot imagine that the honourable Member seriously desires that those interests should not be protected, or that the privileges secured to these persons by Act of Parliament should be taken away by a single stroke of the pen without compensation.

MR. STUART contended that the words as they stood did not make sense, and were not grammar. They read as a compound of two original ideas, one of which was that the occupiers of any hereditament should be exempted, and the other that the owner of the hereditament itself should be assessed lower than other occupiers. There were two broad distinctions to be considered in connection with the rating of London. First of all there were in London certain occupiers who had been allowed to deduct the sewers rate from the rent, and he supposed they wanted to protect those occupiers. That was one protection which was needed. The occupier was

called upon for his rate, and he found he had to pay so much, and he had a statutory right to deduct a portion of that amount from the owner. Then they came to certain hereditaments, which when the assessment authority came to assess them, were to be assessed differently to the others, for it was provided that certain specified hereditaments were to continue to be exempt from the ordinary process of assessment, and consequently there were two interests to protect. It seemed to him that this matter was confused in the four lines before them, and if they meant the protection of the statutory right of the occupier to deduct a certain part of the rate from the owner, he thought that ought to be continued, but if it meant that certain specified hereditaments were to continue to be exempted from the ordinary process of assessment, then he thought they ought to be discontinued. He admitted that this did not affect a very large interest in London. There were some curious old Acts of Parliament which exempted certain houses from being assessed in the usual way, and those anomalies had continued under a state of things which had now very largely passed away, and he thought these cases ought to be reconsidered now. It was pretty clear that the sewers rate would under this Bill be thrown upon the occupier, and he would not be allowed to deduct it. There were two sewers rates—one charged by the County Council, and the other charged by the local authority. By a pure inadvertence, in the Act of 1888 the sewers rate levied by the County Council was thrown entirely on the occupier, who was thus deprived of his right to deduct it from the owner. The right honourable Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade had admitted this inadvertence, and he had promised to introduce a Bill to rectify that mistake. But owing to circumstances of greater moment they had not yet got that Bill, and unless they took care at the present stage, this Act would take away the same right with respect to the local sewers rate, which sometimes amounted to as much as 6d. in the £, which the occupier had at present the right to deduct very often by agreement with his landlord. In many long tenancies the occupier had this right, but it would be taken away from him by this proposal.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Will the honourable Member explain how he gets this right of deduction?

MR. STUART pointed out that Sub-section 2 provided that—

“After the appointed day the general rate and the poor rate shall be levied together as one rate, which shall be termed the general rate.”

He thought they would find that the sewers rate levied as it was now would be different under the Bill, and the occupier would be deprived of his right of deduction. He did not know whether the four lines referred to the retention of the statutable rights of certain existing occupiers to deduct certain rates, or whether they applied to the relief of certain hereditaments from special methods of assessment.

SIR R. B. FINLAY pointed out that there were certain hereditaments which enjoyed total or partial exemption from certain rates, such as the lighting and the sewers rates. It would be very wrong, without providing for compensation, to undo that partial exemption, and the intention of the words alluded to was to preserve the exemption from rates enjoyed by the occupiers of those hereditaments until some fair arrangement was made to give them an equivalent. It did not necessarily imply that those exemptions should continue in perpetuity. He agreed that there should be some uniformity of rating, but that should not be established by inflicting an injustice.

MR. CRIPPS (Gloucester, Stroud) said that he understood that, so far as the Bill was concerned, there was no proposal whatever to alter the incidence of rating. It appeared to him that the words which were proposed to be left out were essential to secure that, so far as the incidence of rating was concerned, the Bill should make no change at all.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought that some Members of the House did not understand this clause. He understood from the explanation of the Solicitor-General that it might be looked upon only as a temporary exemption.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said that it was not necessarily temporary, for it would

be very desirable by a fair arrangement that it should be perpetual. The object of the words was to ensure that the exemption should not be done away with without provision being made.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON saw no objection to this, but it should be remembered in regard to these exemptions that when these matters were reconsidered it should be taken into account what compensation, if any, was to be paid to these people. The Leader of the House had spoken of them as being statutory exemptions, and therefore it would be very difficult to interfere with them. He understood, however, that in a number of cases they were not statutory, and there ought to be words inserted which would exclude them from the operation of this clause.

MR. PICKERSGILL said he quite agreed that unless injustice was to be done, the words of the sub-section were necessary. They would come within the ambit of the scheme, and it might be possible to work out a system by which, ultimately, uniformity would be secured.

THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) said that, so far as he knew, with the exception of certain districts, all rating exemptions were statutory.

MR. LOUGH said the honourable Member for Poplar had suggested, and the Government had heartily accepted, his idea that his Amendment might be accepted here, and that on a later clause in the Bill an arrangement might be made for compensation. As the words now stood, he thought they went a great deal further than that. He would point out that hospitals and tithes in the City were exempt from rating, while outside of London they were not exempted. That was one of the grievances which those outside London interested in tithes complained of. They ought to take care to make an equal system in this clause, and if it was found to press hardly upon any particular person, let them introduce words into Clause 15 to provide compensation for anybody who was aggrieved. The object of his Amendment was that those exemptions and irregularities should be swept away, and if this clause was passed in its present form, such exemptions might continue for ever.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said the Leader of the House had stated that all these exemptions rested upon statute, and the Attorney-General had just stated that in many districts the exemptions were not statutory.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he stated they were statutory except in certain areas.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that there were a very considerable number of these areas outside London in which these exemptions had been put an end to, and the question was whether this opportunity should not be taken to put an end to them in London also.

*COLONEL HUGHES (Woolwich) said the words proposed to be omitted referred to different rates, and the question whether A had a right to deduct anything from B was not raised, and might be dealt with hereafter. The clause provided for all the expenses of the borough council being levied out of the general rate. Therefore it was necessary to put in something so that the existing rights would be preserved. If certain Acts required to be repealed, that should be done specifically, for this Bill had been brought in with the idea of not disturbing those rights.

MR. STUART said he was extremely desirous of bringing this matter to a satisfactory conclusion. When they had secured a uniform rate, surely what they wanted to do, instead of putting in those four lines, was to state that all exemptions of a partial kind should hereafter cease, and then they could proceed to protect the interests of the present occupiers. It seemed to him that this clause was in the wrong place, and the word "occupier" was contrasted with "hereditament," and he did not know which was the real word. Really, they wanted to know what the sentence meant. Assuming that it meant the protection of the interests of the owners and occupiers of certain exempted hereditaments, the exemption in those

cases ought to cease, and along with it the protection of those concerned ought to take place.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the point raised by his honourable friend behind him was worthy of the consideration of the Government. The Government agreed that these exemptions should be extinguished, and that where they were extinguished there should be compensation. He suggested to the right honourable Gentleman the introduction of some such words as these:—

"Shall make provision for extinguishing the interests of the occupier, giving compensation where it is desirable."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I quite agree that some alteration in the wording is necessary, as pointed out by the honourable Member for Hoxton, for it is not right to make "occupiers" balance "hereditaments," and we must make some verbal alteration. The honourable Gentleman does not differ from the Government in this respect, for he thinks that it should be made obligatory. He suggested that they might meet the object in view by making the clause read—

"But shall make provision for protecting the interests of the owners and occupiers of any hereditament which is exempt from any rate or liable to be assessed thereto at a less amount than other hereditaments."

That, I am aware, does not fully carry out the object of my honourable friend, but the difference is not very great, and I hope he will not require a Division.

MR. LOUGH thought he might be allowed to say that a hint in the direction of extinguishing these anomalies ought to be included. He did not wish to draw a hard-and-fast line, and he admitted that there might be some cases where extinction would press very hardly upon the occupier. The general impression was in favour of establishing a uniform system.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 207; Noes, 114—(Division List No. 145.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.

Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Grld W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith- (Hunts
Bartley, George C. T.

Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Beresford, Lord Charles
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Biddulph, Michael
 Bill, Charles
 Blakiston-Houston, John
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis
 Brassey, Albert
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasg'w
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. B. (Harrow)
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Carzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akeis-
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finlay, Sir Robert Banuatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Folkestone, Viscount
 Forster, Henry William
 Fry, Lewis
 Garfit, William
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lnd.)

Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, W. Raymond (Camba.
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houston, R. P.
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir J. hn Jones
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'n's a
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (L'pool)
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 MacLmont, E. L. B. (Camba.)
 McIver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Marks, Henry Hananel
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Cusack John
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morrison, Walter

Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pender, Sir James
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretyman, Ernest George
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Ch. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney,
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse
 Sanderson, Rt. Hon. Col. Edw. J.
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ.
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (I. of Wight
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburch, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Hry.
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Baker, Sir John
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.

Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.

Causton, Richard Knight
 Clark, Dr. G. E. (Caithness-sh)
 Colville, John
 Crombie, John William
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Daly, James
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan

Davitt, Michael
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Dunn, Sir William
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Hbrt. John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kitson, Sir James

Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McArthur, William (Cornwall)
 McCartan, Michael
 McKenna, Reginald
 McLeod, John
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
 Pease, Jos-ph A. (Northumb.)
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Price, Robert John

Reckitt, Harold James
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarshire)
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorg. E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Wallace, Robert (Perth)
 Walton, Jos-ph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodall, William
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES,
 Mr. Lough and Mr. James Stuart.

MR. PICKERSGILL said the object of the Amendment he now proposed was to prevent a repetition of the great injustice which was done under the Act of 1888, the effect of which, by incorporating the metropolitan sewers rate in the county rate, was to sweep away the exemption which occupiers had from the sewers rate, and to throw the burden of the rate upon them. The effect of the present Bill would be the same with regard to the local sewers rates, and therefore he had drafted this Amendment to prevent it.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 38, at end, to insert 'and shall also provide, that as between landlord and tenant every tenant who, if this Act had not been passed, would have been entitled to deduct against or to be repaid by his landlord any sum paid by such tenant on account of the sewers rate, shall in like manner be entitled to deduct against or to be repaid by his landlord such portion of the general rate as represents the sewers rate.'"—(Mr. Pickersgill.)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER pointed out that even if he agreed with the Amendment this was not the proper place for it to be introduced. It was obvious if what was desired by the honourable Gentleman who moved it was

to be done it would have to be done by some clause. The insertion of the words suggested would not have the desired effect. If the honourable Member desired to carry the matter further he would have to bring in a new clause. The Amendment could not be accepted.

MR. STUART asked whether the Government would not see that the same thing did not occur under this Bill as occurred with regard to the metropolitan sewers rate. The supporters of the Amendment would be quite satisfied if a clause was introduced to protect the occupiers. Under the Act of 1888 the metropolitan sewers rate had been merged in the county rate, with the result that it was held to be all one rate, and therefore no deductions could be allowed. That would happen again under this Bill if care was not taken to prevent it. The occupiers ought in his opinion to be protected, and if the words suggested by the Amendment gave no adequate protection the Amendment might be withdrawn, but if it were he thought the Attorney-General ought to undertake to bring in a clause which would have the effect which it was desired to attain by the Amendment.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER: I have endeavoured to indicate that this is what

must be done ; but the first sub-section is not the place to introduce it. I shall be glad to look into the matter and see what can be done, but it must be done in Sub-section 2.

MR. PICKERSGILL said he understood from his previous remarks that the honourable and learned Gentleman was against the Amendment, but if he admitted the point which had been put to him, then he (Mr. Pickersgill) would postpone the matter. If, on the other hand, there was any substantial difference of opinion, the question ought to be fought out now. The effect of the clause would be to merge the sewers rate into the general rate, and the burden would be put upon the tenants, who certainly ought to be protected against any such thing. If there was any such difference of opinion between the honourable and learned Gentleman and himself, he should have to take the opinion of the Committee on the question. If there was not, then he should be prepared to withdraw the Amendment.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wilts, Cricklade) thought that the only difference which existed was as to where the Amendment ought to come in. He suggested that any question on which a substantial difference of opinion existed might be met by enacting, if it were not enacted already, that if there were a sewers rate it should be properly defined, and deduction should be allowed. The Poor Rate included, for instance, many other rates besides the Poor Rate, with regard to which there were no exemptions at present, but if deductions already existed the Amendment might be accepted in a modified form.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER believed that there was already some statutory definition of the rates, but he maintained that whatever was done in this matter ought to be done on Sub-section 2 of the Bill, which provided that all the rates should be merged into one rate. His honourable and learned friend the Solicitor-General had, however, suggested to him that it would be possible to add some words at the end of Sub-section 2 which would protect both landlord and tenant.

MR. ASQUITH (Fife, E.): I agree with the right honourable and learned Sir Richard Webster.

Gentleman the Attorney-General. This is a matter of considerable importance, and there is obviously a substantial grievance. The tenant at present has a statutory right, except where he has bartered it away, to make this particular deduction with regard to the sewers rate. That rate is now going to be consolidated into a general rate, and it would be a great injustice if the tenant's right of deduction with regard to the sewers rate should be annihilated.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The matter is one which may require consideration between this and the Report stage ; but the view we take at present is that the objection might be met by the adding of some such words as "that this shall not affect any right between landlord and tenant as to the deduction of any rate." That expresses the intentions of the honourable Gentleman. The only question is whether those words are the best that can be found.

MR. STUART said that all that was wanted was an assurance that the statutory right now vesting in the occupier should not cease to exist, which was only justice. It would have been impossible to conceive that such a difficulty could have arisen had it not occurred under the Act of 1888. A scheme might possibly be devised by which a fixed sum should be deducted from the general rate, in the future, as representing the sewers rate. It might be difficult to do, but it was not impossible to make such an arrangement. He pointed out that with regard to the previous Act the President of the Board of Trade was of opinion that a small Bill ought to have been brought in to set the matter right. He would rather the right honourable Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury would not commit himself to any words at present ; he would much prefer that he would undertake to deal with the matter without doing so ; besides which, he very much doubted whether the words suggested would cover the matter. What was required was that he would deal with the matter in some such way as was suggested by the Amendment as soon as he had satisfied himself as to what was the true position.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Then, perhaps, we had better leave this question until we

come to Sub-section 2. We are all agreed as to the object of the Amendment, and before we get to the end of Sub-section 2 the matter shall be considered.

MR. PICKERSGILL expressed his willingness to postpone the matter until the end of Sub-section 2, but he had grave doubts as to whether the words suggested by the right honourable Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury would meet the case. It did not seem to him that they did.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

MR. CRIPPS moved to amend the third section of the clause, which is as follows—

“Where a borough comprises more than one parish, the amount to be raised to meet the expenses of the borough council or other sums payable as part of their expenses shall be divided between the parishes in proportion to their rateable value.”

In discussing questions of valuation and assessment, it was important to make the Bill as simple and uniform as possible. The object of his Amendment was to introduce the borough itself in place of the parish. The advantage of that arrangement would appear by the reading into the rating clause the Amendments of which he had given notice. Under the proposal in the Bill there would be difficulty in the collection and levying of rates and appointment of overseers, but under his plan there would be the borough unit for the valuation and assessment and the council appointing the overseers. He did not think anyone would doubt that if a scheme of that kind was carried out it would be an immense improvement on the proposals in the Bill. In dealing with valuation and assessment the Government should see that they were absolutely fair for all purposes, both local and imperial. Everyone was aware that at the present time, according to the Valuation Act of 1869, the metropolis was far in advance of any other part of the country, because there was in the metropolis one basis of assessment, and the report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation was in favour of bringing the country up to the metropolitan level. Nor had any difficulty arisen in regard to unions which in London, as elsewhere, dealt with self-governing and

overlapping areas, when once a fair basis was established. All he wanted was to have the best possible machinery for valuation and assessment in the simplest possible way. He begged to move to omit the words “where a borough comprises more than one parish.”

Amendment proposed—

In page 7, line 3, to leave out the words “Where a borough comprises more than one parish.”—(*Mr. Cripps.*)

Question proposed—

“That the words proposed to be left out stand part of clause.”

SIR R. B. FINLAY said his hon. and learned friend would to a great extent carry the Committee with him as to the desirability of as far as possible getting rid of the complications caused by division in the parishes, but in its present form the Amendment would introduce great confusion in the work of Local Government. It could not, therefore, be accepted. If they were going to have a rated area in all the boroughs coincident with their boundaries they must so re-arrange their unions that they did not overlap out of one borough into another. But where there were four boroughs, comprising, say, four parishes with three in one union, and one in another union, they must retain the parish as the rating unit when they had to get contributions from that parish as a portion of another union. If they had the borough as the rating unit then they had not the materials for dealing with the contributions to be made to the Union of which one of the parishes in the borough formed part. But there were other difficulties. Under the provisions of the Equalisation of Rates Act, distribution of the money between the parishes was made according to their population, and the Agricultural Rating Act, 1896, dealt with the distribution of the amounts where several parishes were under one spending authority, between parishes according to assessable value, and so a conflict would arise between the machinery of these sections, because, as Amended, the third section would read—

“The amount to be raised to meet the expenses charged on the county rate, or other sums payable, shall be divided between the boroughs in proportion to their rateable value.”

For these reasons he hoped the Committee would not accept the Amendment.

MR. STUART said he agreed that the subject was an extremely difficult one to deal with. He had had the pleasure of sitting on a Commission relating to the subject, and he would venture to say that the first Report of that Commission was one that deserved the most serious attention of the House. He also agreed that London was, in the matter of assessment, very considerably in front of the rest of the kingdom. So far as the circumstances allowed, the Commission agreed that London should be dealt with by the same principle that they desired to apply to the rest of the kingdom. But while he agreed with the hon. and learned Member in his desire that the parish should not be the unit concerned in the arrangements under this Bill, he did not think that he accomplished this purpose by the Amendment proposed. As it stood now, Sub-section 3 was a direction as to how the borough rate has to be dealt with within the four walls of the borough, when they came to deal with separate parishes in the borough. Where there were not separate parishes in the borough no difficulty arose, but where there were separate parishes in the borough they had, under Sub-section 3, directed how to deal with those parishes in raising the new borough rate, which included the Poor rate, the County Council rate, the School Board rate, and, in fact, all the rates that were to be charged within the borough. But if the proposal of the hon. and learned Member were adopted, only the County Council rate would be taken, and it would be a direction as to how that rate was to be divided among the different boroughs. That would be an absolute transformation of the sub-section. It might or might not be a reasonable way of dealing with the subject, but it would be matter for a separate section or clause.

MR. CRIPPS said there seemed to be a misapprehension as to the effect of the Amendment. Under his proposal they might still raise what sums they liked from areas they called parish unions, boroughs, or counties; and that power would not be interfered with in the least. It was a mere question of assessment, and the most simple and uniform way in which to make it was the right way. Why should they not take the borough area as the most convenient and simple unit for the purposes of valuation and assessment?

The second Amendment he had on the paper, that the amount to be raised should go to meet the expenses charged on the county rate, was an arguable point, and on reflection, he thought there were difficulties with regard to that. But if the words "where a borough comprises more than one parish," were got rid of, the sub-section for the purpose for which it was inserted in the Bill went. He proposed to confine himself entirely to that, in order that the borough area should be taken as the proper area for valuation and assessment purposes, and that the borough council should appoint their overseers, or be the overseers themselves.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said his hon. and learned friend instead of proposing the Amendment he did a quarter of an hour ago, was now proposing quite a different Amendment—namely, the omission of the third sub-section. He entirely objected to this new proposal, as he had done to the other, and for this reason, that they must under existing circumstances, have the parish as a unit for some purposes. They could not dispense with that. They could not make every borough one parish, much as for other reasons they should like to do it, until the machinery of the poor law was simplified, so that unions would not overlap into different boroughs. As long as they had different parishes in one borough there must be some provision for the manner in which the borough charges were to be distributed over the different parishes. The Amendment now proposed could not but be mischievous in its effects, and the discussion of it was merely a waste of time.

MR. ASQUITH thought that his hon. and learned friend had led the Committee, with the best motives in the world, into a complete fog. If he had moved to omit the sub-section then they would have known where they were.

MR. CRIPPS said he had dealt with the matter in the same way as was done in Bristol and other places, where for the purpose of certain Acts the borough was constituted one parish.

MR. ASQUITH said that in order to understand the Amendment they had to look at other Amendments the hon. and learned Gentleman had placed on the paper. He thought that the hon. and

learned Gentleman's object was to allocate the county rate, but he appeared now to have some other object. They should be employing their time much more profitably by accepting the preliminary words of the sub-section, which indicated a case that must be dealt with, and then proceed to consider what was the best way to deal with it.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow) said it seemed to him that the assessment should be by the parish area, or the borough area, and that was conveniently raised by his hon. and learned friend by moving the omission of the sub-section. The objection that a borough might extend to two or more poor-law unions, or that a poor-law union might overlap into the borough was a kind of objection that could not be maintained. It could be met without any great difficulty by providing that the borough council should make a separate valuation list for each ward of the poor-law area, on which the poor-law guardians could easily raise the necessary amount by precept. Very serious objection could be taken to the proposal to have the assessment done by the parish, and not by the borough area. Of course, they knew this Bill did not provide for a uniform rate, but he thought the Committee would admit that whatever view might prevail on that subject, it was inexpedient to have a variety of rates that did not depend on any principle. For instance, in the case of Westminster, which would contain five parishes, if the proposal of Sub-section 2 was carried out there would be five rating authorities and five different rates, and five different contributions.

MR. STUART advised his hon. and learned friend to withdraw his Amendment. He could then move to omit Sub-section 3, in order to substitute—

“That each borough should constitute a parish for the making and collection of rates.”

Then they could have a further Amendment moved for the distribution of the central rates, such as the hon. and learned Member proposed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the Amendment would not decide the question raised. He very earnestly suggested to

the Committee to pass from this Amendment as soon as possible, and come to the important problems which the Committee had to decide. They ought to have a question put from the Chair on which they could vote “Aye” or “No.”

MR. CRIPPS said this was an extremely important matter. The way in which he moved his Amendment was, in his opinion, the most convenient form, and this was the most convenient stage of the Bill at which to decide whether they were to have the borough or parish as the unit. He was, however, quite willing to withdraw his Amendment, and substitute for it the omission of sub-Section 3.

MR. COURTNEY was very loth to interfere on this question, for he was not quite sure if he were a perfect master of it; but he doubted whether the suggestion made was the best way out of the difficulty. The proper plan would be to withdraw the Amendment and leave Sub-section 3 untouched, and then to move to insert before the sub-section another sub-section which would deal with the simple question of the borough being made the assessment unit.

*COLONEL HUGHES said the question of assessment had not yet arisen. The clause merely dealt with the division of the amount raised by the county council. They must have assessment by parishes, for different accounts had to dealt with.

MR. CRIPPS begged leave to withdraw the Amendment in order to move afterwards the omission of Sub-section 3.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 7, line 3, to leave out Sub-section (3).—(*Mr. Cripps.*)

Question put—

“That the words ‘where a borough comprises more than one parish’ stand part of the clause.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes 223 ; Noes 129.—(Division List No. 146.)

the Amendment to be a practical and just one. He was glad to hear from the Solicitor-General that there was much to be said for making these charges metropolitan charges, and when they put down that Amendment they certainly did hope the hon. and learned Gentleman would see his way to accept it. If they came to the cases of individual parishes, they would find that in consequence of the different modes in which compound rates were taken and the different ways in which rebates were allowed, differences existed which ought not to prevail. In the case of Poplar he found the difference amounted roughly to about 3d. in the pound; and when they had three parishes comprising one borough he did not think that there ought to be any difference made with regard to the cost of collection, seeing that it arose from the way in which property was assessed.

MR. PICKERSGILL said he should like to point out to the hon. and learned Gentleman that the Bill proposed that where a borough consisted of several parishes the same persons should be appointed to act as overseers for all the parishes. Surely, then, this was the proper place for the Amendment.

MR. STUART said he regarded this as an extremely important Amendment. If they were going to constitute boroughs which should combine a variety of parishes, some poor and some rich, they ought certainly to do away with this anomaly. It was the case with London parishes that in proportion to their poverty the leakages were great; the richer the parish the smaller the leakage. He did not know whether the Solicitor-General recognised the fact that the leakages varied from about a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate to a 1s. 4d. rate. He did not think his hon. friend's Amendment went far enough: he preferred the words of his own Amendment—that "they shall be levied at an equal rate in the pound over the whole borough." He did not think that the Amendment of his hon. friend would cover the case of loss from empty houses, which certainly did not come into the cost of collection. He hoped the Government would accept the principle of the Amendment; suitable words could be framed later on. What they wanted to have was a uniform rate for the whole borough, and they did not want the wealthier portion of a

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

borough to turn its back on the poorer portion. Why should the poorer part of a parish be punished by the imposition of a heavier rate in perpetuity? As he had pointed out, the variation was very considerable, and he knew of contiguous parishes in which the difference was as much as 9d. Personally he was entirely in favour of making this a metropolitan charge, but if they could not do that, let them at least make it a borough charge. This was one of the conditions of poorer life which made poverty its own punishment. Very much of the difference arose in the case of tenement dwellings, where the owner, in consideration of paying the rates, was allowed a certain amount off. This was found to be convenient to all parties, but as from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. was frequently allowed, it constituted an enormous addition to the cost of collection in the poor districts. He urgently pressed on the Government the consideration of this Amendment, which he submitted was a fundamental one as regarded the question of rating.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Government are far from denying that there may be a hardship in the poorer districts, arising from the fact that there is a leakage in the rate collected. This hardship, which varies in different localities, can only be dealt with by some scheme of equalisation of rates either in respect of the whole metropolis or as regards the subordinate areas of the metropolis. I strongly deprecate any attempt to deal with this question in the Bill. It seems, at all events on the face of it, it would be equitable to throw the loss on the whole of the metropolis where the County Council charge is concerned, to throw the whole of the loss on the borough where the borough charge is concerned, and to throw the whole of the loss on the union where the union is concerned; but the plan of the hon. Gentleman to leave out the union and the County Council and to throw the whole of the loss on the borough does not appear to me to be a logical or fair way of dealing with the problem.

MR. STUART: The County Council rate would come in.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: But it is not equalised over the area of the county council. I would specially point out to

the hon. Member that under the existing law there is power to make the parish coterminous with the borough, and to modify union boundaries, so as to prevent them overlapping. On the whole, I advise the Committee not to attempt in this Bill any transfer of the charge from one area to another, for that would raise the very difficult and complicated question of equalisation. I think that if I attempted to touch the fringe of this subject in the somewhat illogical, although well-meant, method suggested by the two hon. Gentlemen opposite, we should only be involving ourselves in a very complex question, which, in this Bill, it would be impossible for us to deal with in a broad and comprehensive spirit.

*COLONEL HUGHES said that if they had equalisation over the boroughs of the loss with regard to empties, that would be an injustice to the poorer parishes in the borough, for it was well known that there were fewer small than large houses empty. Indeed, the loss on empties in most boroughs, and especially in those containing mixed parishes, arose to a great degree with regard to the larger class of property. Therefore, if the loss were spread over the whole borough, poor and rich would alike have to pay, instead of, as at present, the rich paying the greater portion.

MR. BARTLEY said a great deal of the loss depended on the mode of collection. Islington was a parish which might be considered as very poor, and it certainly got the largest share under the Equalisation of Rates Bill. Yet their losses were, perhaps, smaller than those of any other parish, simply because they had a most efficient system of rate collecting. He held that it was of great importance that the same system should prevail throughout a borough, and he should, therefore, support the Amendment.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND said he understood the First Lord of the Treasury, when speaking on the question of the equalisation of the charges incurred for duties administered by the London County Council, to support the principle that those charges should be equalised over the whole county council area. That was precisely what this Amendment proposed, viz.,—that where special duties were cast upon a borough council, the

cost of performing them should be spread over the whole borough area. As far as the county council rate was concerned, the First Lord of the Treasury had admitted that it should be equalised.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I said it was a question which, in my judgment, should not be raised on this Bill. I admitted that there might be good reasons for throwing over the whole county council area any leakage occurring in regard to the county council rate.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND said they were now considering the amount to be raised to meet the expenses of the borough councils, and he submitted it was clear that that amount should be equally borne by the whole borough. This was, of course a matter of detail, but it was important for the reason that it applied only to two of the scheduled areas. He supported the Bill on the assumption that these areas were suitable areas for homogeneous boroughs, but if they were to be separated in the matter of rate collection, etc., let them be separated in every way.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) said the idea of the Bill was to group together a certain number of parishes, taking it for granted that, by so grouping them, districts would be formed which could be better governed than they now were. The right hon. Gentleman had himself agreed to the application of the principle of the Amendment in the matter of the county council rate, yet he would not extend it to the boroughs. Did he not know that there were areas around London where more than one-third of the property consisted of tenement property, and where as much as 25 per cent. discount was allowed to the owner to facilitate the collection of rates? He hoped that in the interests of the poorer districts throughout London the right hon. Gentleman would give way.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouth, N.) said he should like to point out that in the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation this year a recommendation was made on exactly the same lines as the Amendment.

MR. LOUGH said there was a very small, but, at the same time, a just principle involved in the Amendment, and he

hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his decision. It should be remembered that it was for the benefit of the whole borough that the rates were collected. It was in the poorer parishes that the greatest loss occurred in the collection of rates, and Government proposed to continue that loss, thereby

perpetrating a great injustice. He ventured to think there was no charge which could be more fairly spread over the whole borough.

Question put—

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 103; Noes, 203. (Division List, No. 147.)

AYES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allison, Robert Andrew
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Baker, Sir John
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Blownaggee, Sir M. M.
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh
Clough, Walter Owen
Colville, John
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Crombie, John William
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davitt, Michael
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fenwick, Charles
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John

Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, Hn. Lionel R. (Bow)
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lyell, Sir Leonard
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Menol, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham
Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)

Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfar)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
Wallace, Robert (Perth)
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Pickersgill and Mr.
Lough.

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants.
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)

Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)

Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cruddas, William Donaldson
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penroese-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Folkestone, Viscount
Forster, Henry William
Fry, Lewis

Mr. Lough.

Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. AGH (City of London)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Alexander
Herman-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hulton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kinber, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine

Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, Jhn. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monmouth)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William George
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pickington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
Purvis, Robert
Pryn, C. Guy
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlepool)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James

Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyne)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Saunders, Rt. Hon. Col. E. J.
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebottom, William (Derby)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stewart, Sir M. J. M. Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
Thorburn, Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of W.)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. STUART said that he had an Amendment on the Paper to omit certain words in Sub-section 3 which he did not quite understand. That sub-section provided that—

“Where a borough comprises more than one parish the amount to be raised to meet the expenses of the borough council or other sums payable as part of these expenses shall be divided between the parishes in proportion to their rateable value.”

Was that meant to include the county rate, the precept from the school board, and other central rates, or not; or was it meant to apply only to the expenses incurred by the county council as such?

SIR R. B. FINLAY pointed out that the other rates were already provided for by the Acts.

MR. STUART understood that this clause only applied to the expenses in-

curred by the county council as such, exclusive of the central cost of expenses in London.

SIR R. B. FINLAY did not think that any such provision was wanted, because it was already provided for.

MR. STUART said he regretted very much that this provision did not cover the whole of the rates, central and otherwise, for he thought they would find themselves in a still greater fog than they were in now. Apart from what might arise from loss of collection, he contended that there was no want of logic in his Amendment, which simply provided that all the inhabitants of the borough should be treated in the same way and on the same basis and pay the same general rate. He begged to move his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 5, to leave out the words from the words 'shall be,' to the end of the subsection, in order to insert the words 'levied at an equal rate in the pound over the whole borough.'"—(*Mr. James Stuart.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know that I have much to add to what I have said before upon this point. This question really ought to be considered in connection with the whole subject of leakage, and not in connection with this branch of the subject. I would ask the Committee to resist the very attractive proposal of the hon. Gentleman opposite, which I am convinced would lead us into difficulties and endless complications, and finally into an arrangement which could not be regarded as satisfactory settlement of this subject.

MR. LOUGH pointed out that if the only difficulty was in connection with the poor law surely it would be quite easy to arrange a method by which this difficulty could be overcome, and it would be quite easy to carry out the Amendment which his hon. friend proposed. Islington was the largest parish in the Metropolis, and it was now going to be formed into a borough council. If Islington were divided like many other districts so that some of the poor districts would form parishes by themselves, then the loss there would be very great. The reason why the loss there was so little at present was because it was one poor law union and one parish and one borough council, and the loss which arose in poor localities was there spread all over the borough, and that was what they wanted to be the case in the boroughs throughout London.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER thought it was desirable to have an equal rate all over London, which should be defined in the Bill. In the constituency which he had the honour to represent there was the richer district of Regent's Park, and the very poor district of Somers Town, which was probably one of the poorest districts

in London. If they were going to form other parishes, they should be uniformly rated and assessed, and uniformly managed. Suppose he lived on one side of the street and his rates were 5s. in the pound, and he found that on the other side of the road his richer neighbours in a different ward were rated at 4s. 6d. in the pound, naturally he would consider that he was hardly living in the same borough. He thought this was a question upon which the Government might do something for the uniformity of rating.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said he rose for the purpose of obtaining some information from the Government. Under the Schedule Poplar was already scheduled as a borough council. Whitechapel, Mile End, St. George's, and Limehouse, were still left to be scheduled. Assuming that Mile End and Limehouse were scheduled as one borough they would then have two parishes with two Poor Law administrations. In Limehouse the rates were 6s. 4d., and in Mile End 6s. 8d. If they were made into one borough he wished to know would the rates remain the same? Then, again, the Mile End Union believed in granting outdoor relief, and paid £4,000 a-year in that way; on the other hand, Limehouse did not believe in outdoor relief, and the result was that the poor rate was much lower. Were they to understand that under this Clause Limehouse and Mile End would still continue to administer the poor rate in their own way? So far as the equalisation of rates was concerned it was based upon population, and if Limehouse and Mile End were made one borough Mile End would lose under the new borough council system unless the equalisation was going to be administered in accordance with the present state of things.

MR. MCKENNA contended that if they had different rating authorities they would never get any uniform rating at all.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 149 ; Noes, 73.—(Division List No. 148.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred

Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitz Roy
Baird, John George Alexander

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket

Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants.)
 Bethell, Commander
 Blakiston-Houston, John
 Bond, Edward
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Brodriek, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm)
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Forster, Henry William
 Fry, Lewis
 Garfit, William
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General

Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir Jn Eldon
 Goschen, Rt Hn GJ (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gretton, John
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstd.)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houston, R. P.
 Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
 Joffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Kimber, Henry
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Macclure, Sir John William
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)

Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsey
 Percy, Earl
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quinn, Major W. H.
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Baker, Sir John
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Daly, James
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Fenwick, Charles
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)

Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb't John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a)
 Jones, William (Carnarvon)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Lambert, George
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McKenna, Reginald
 M'Leod, John
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)

Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Walton, Jn. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notte.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. James Stuart and
 Robert Wallace (Perth)

MR. CRIPPS said he thought the Amendment he had now to propose would make the rate quite general, although he did not think that it was a question upon which it would be necessary to divide the Committee.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 7, to leave out from beginning, to 'shall,' in line 9, and insert 'Where any rate is required to be levied over a portion only of a borough, such rate.'"—(*Mr. Cripps.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of clause."

SIR R. B. FINLAY thought this was a point upon which opinions might differ, but they preferred the words in the Sub-section, which covered the whole ground, and were a little more precise.

MR. STUART asked if he was right in supposing that the object of this Amendment was to enable the overseers appointed by the borough council to act in the various parishes under all circumstances?

MR. CRIPPS replied that the hon. Member for Hoxton was quite right in assuming that that was the motive of his Amendment. He understood from the learned Solicitor-General's reply that all the cases were already covered, and under the circumstances he asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11 :—

MR. LOUGH, in moving to omit Sub-section (1), said he wished to substitute a more uniform system for the anomalous system which at present existed. He thought this Amendment would at any rate be a suitable opportunity for the Government to explain what they intended to do with regard to the question of the overseers. Practically, the whole matter was settled in this clause, and the first Sub-section gave the council of each borough the duty and power of appointing overseers. London was almost unanimous that the present system was not the best one to adopt, and that the borough councils themselves should be overseers. The effect of this Sub-section, if adopted,

would be to establish several bodies of overseers with separate offices and separate staffs.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 13, to leave out Sub-section (1)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words 'After the appointed day stand part of the clause.'"

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member who has just sat down has made an appeal to the Government to state their views upon this question. We quite agree that the overseers should be under the control of, and should be appointed by, and responsible to, the borough council. We also hold that they should be personally liable for the conduct of their important functions. The Local Government Board has always held this view very strongly, and, in so far as that Department is concerned, they have declined to allow personal responsibility to be merged in corporate responsibility. The advantage of that is quite clear. The duty of overseers is twofold, and with regard to both sets of their functions personal responsibility should be retained. They are responsible for the collection of the rates, and also for the preparation of the lists. So far as the collection of rates is concerned, it certainly seems right that there should be the power of legal remedy against persons responsible for these great financial transactions, involved in which are the personal rights of the individual ratepayer, and by a parity of reasoning it is most important that in the Imperial duty of the preparation of the lists there should be a remedy, not against the corporation, but against individuals, for wrongs done, or which might be done, to other individuals in their capacity as citizens, and as persons who had a right to take part in the direct government of the country. If the duty of collecting the rates and preparing the lists is in any way merged in the corporation, everybody knows that personal responsibility will entirely cease. That is the reason why the Government has not adopted the plan which exists in the case of one or two vestries in London at the present time—namely, the plan of making the vestry, or, in any case, the Board of Guardians, overseers, in their corporate capacity. We entirely agree with hon. Gentlemen who favour this

Amendment in desiring that the functions and appointments of overseers and the management of their work should be put in the hands of the new borough councils. We do not wish to deprive them of any part of the functions and duties which they may desire to perform. I shall, therefore, be prepared, if it will meet the views of hon. Gentlemen, to make it obligatory that the overseers shall be members of the borough council. If that is done, it is clear that the overseers would practically be a committee of the borough council, personally liable, no doubt, to outside suitors for the performance of their duties, but as regarded the borough council, they will be a committee. I cannot see that that is in any sense derogatory to the borough council. It is well known to the Committee that borough councils in the provinces have only the management of their own police in the sense that there is a committee composed of their members, called the Watch Committee, which is responsible for the police, and for law and order within their area. The fact that there is a statutory committee dealing with such matters is not derogatory to the great provincial borough councils, nor do I see that it would be in any sense derogatory to the new boroughs which are being created if we were in a somewhat similar, though not absolutely identical, fashion to throw the duties of the overseers upon what would be a committee of the members of each council. By that arrangement we shall certainly preserve what the Local Government Board attaches great value to—namely, personal responsibility; and therefore I shall be quite satisfied to have this committee. On the other hand, I should have thought those hon. friends of mine who desire to see the borough councils thrown into closer touch with the work of the overseers would find in the solution I have provided a plan which would meet their wishes. I hope, if it does not give them everything they desire, they will recognise that, at all events, it is a step in the direction of their wishes, and that they will be content to accept the plan I place before them.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought that the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury was better than the proposal contained in the Bill, because under it it was obligatory for the overseers to become members of the

borough councils. But, nevertheless, the overseers would still have everything in their hands; the power would not pass into the hands of the whole borough councils, but into a committee. He himself thought it would have been much better if the previous proposal had been accepted, because in 1894 the Local Government Board were given the power to transfer the powers of overseers to the vestries, and, as a result, at the present time it was in the hands of no less than 15 of the most important vestries in London. So far as he was aware, no difficulty had arisen with regard to the matter, and the only argument adduced against the power of the overseers being given to the new borough councils was that, as they acted in the corporate capacity, it would be difficult for an individual to obtain any remedy from them. That might be so, but at all events he would be able to obtain it through the town clerk, who is responsible, and so far as any action could be brought at all it could be brought against him.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: You cannot distrain on the town clerk.

MR. LOUGH: But you can distrain upon the rates.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought there was no case where an individual bringing an action against the town clerk could not recover. Looking at the fact that these powers were already in the possession of 15 vestries, he did not see that there was any reason for withholding them from the new bodies to be created by the Bill. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the matter. In his opinion the borough councils certainly ought to be the overseers, and having regard to the excellent manner in which the corporate capacity had worked he should support the Amendment if it went to a Division.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said the progress that had been made with the Bill was due to the manner in which the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury had laid himself open to consider representations from both sides of the House. In this particular instance he sincerely hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would have regard to the views which had been expressed, and that

he would reconsider this point before the Report stage. It was alleged against the proposal that a corporate body could not afford such security as an individual, but in his opinion the security which it could afford was much greater than any which could be given by an individual. Instances had been given in which it was shown that this power in the hands of a corporate body was most advantageous. A corporation could be indicted. He did not see that the matter in question could be in any way compared to a Watch Committee. The Watch Committee was an institution which no doubt worked well, but in this case, as he understood, there was not to be a committee of several members, but one or two persons only were to be responsible. The difficulty, in his opinion, would be to get councils to appoint men who would be personally responsible. All that he desired was that the matter should be reconsidered. This clause was a vital one to those vestries which already possessed the power. If it were allowed to go through in the present form, it would, in his opinion, cause a feeling of intense disappointment in the metropolis.

CAPTAIN NORTON pointed out that power had been given to transfer these duties to the vestries, and it could not be denied that certain parishes did exercise them with great satisfaction and advantage, and where the duties were not performed by the vestry, four gentlemen, who were not paid, were appointed for the purpose. He thought that when the new boroughs came into existence it would be impossible for the councils to appoint a sufficient number of persons whose knowledge of the borough was such that they could undertake those functions. He certainly thought these duties should be performed by the boroughs themselves, and the responsibility could, if necessary, be fixed on the town clerk. He believed that in a large number of parishes the overseers had been influenced by large local interests, with the result that certain property had been under-rated. The practice was rampant, and for years the public-houses in many parishes had been under-rated to a scandalous degree. The voters' lists were simply copies of the rate book and nothing more, and in certain parts of poor parishes where the property was principally tenement property, where the compounders were supposed to make

an annual return, either a most imperfect one, or none at all was made, in consequence of which hundreds of voters were disfranchised. Having regard to the important duties which devolved upon the overseers, he thought those functions ought to be performed by the local governing body. He hoped, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider this matter and place the responsibility for those duties where it ought to be—namely, in the hands of the popularly elected bodies of the districts.

*COLONEL HUGHES said the difficulty which would have to be faced would be the opposition of those vestries which had undertaken the duties of overseers. In some cases the power went back to 1818, and those who had exercised these powers for many years were not likely to forego them without a struggle. There were, no doubt, many objections to independent overseers. As soon as they were appointed they could do just what they liked for a twelvemonth, and if the vestry or anybody else spoke to them as to the way in which they performed their duties, their reply simply was that they were elected for that period and they would do as they pleased. Nobody could see what they were doing. He did not suggest that they would do anything wrong, but, after all, overseers were only human like other people. If the councils were called upon to perform the duties of the overseers, the chief of which was to make the rate, they would feel a very much higher responsibility than any vestry. They would be responsible for their own part, and for the explanation of the other part. Those vestries which had possessed these powers for many years would be loth to give them up, and it would be a great improvement in administration that these independent borough councils should make the rates and be responsible for them, rather than that half-a-dozen individuals should do so who were absolutely irresponsible. It had been contended that most of the objections to this clause would be met by there being a statutory committee of the council; but in the one case the borough council would be responsible, and in the other the gentlemen forming the committee would be responsible to no one, not even the borough council. They could meet when they liked, and the council could ask them no questions. The duty of the

Sir Albert Rollit.

borough council was to govern the borough, and they could not do so properly unless they exercised the functions of the overseers of the borough direct.

MR. PICKERSGILL said that if the announcement of the First Lord of the Treasury as to the overseers' clause was to be regarded as the final decision of the Government, it would cause the greatest disappointment to both sides of the House, and also to the public at large. What was the proposal which the right hon. Gentleman now submitted, and which he asked the House to accept in place of the Amendment lower down on the Paper? In the first place the overseers were to be members of a borough council. That was a very small concession; in fact, no concession at all, because in practice overseers were, as a rule, members of the vestry now. Then, in the second place, the overseers were to be a committee of the council, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman also said that they were to be under the control of the council. But if they were to be under the control of the council it was clear that that was altogether inconsistent with personal responsibility on the part of the overseers. It would be impossible to impose upon the overseers a statutory responsibility, and at the same time to place them under the control of the council. They would naturally say if the council passed their resolution under which they objected, "It is impossible for us to accept your resolution, because responsibility is placed by law upon our shoulders, and we must, decline therefore, to do as you tell us, lest a worse thing should befall us in incurring the heavier penalties of the law." If personal responsibilities were to be imposed, the overseers could not be in any real sense of the term a committee of the council. The right hon. Gentleman attached too much importance to merging personal responsibility in corporate responsibility. He ventured to think that up to the present time the value of personal responsibility had been very slight. It was notorious that in many cases the overseers discharged their duties in a most inadequate and negligent way. In how many cases had proceedings been taken against overseers? In how many cases had an attempt been made to enforce the responsibility of which so much was

made by the right hon. Gentleman, and in what percentage of the cases brought had the overseer been held to be liable? He ventured to think that the cases could be numbered almost upon the fingers of one hand. With regard to the apprehensions of the right hon. Gentleman as to the taking away of the personal responsibility, he pointed out to the Committee that the House did not entertain them. The House contemplated the powers, duties, and liabilities of overseers being transferred to a corporate body. Only a few years ago, by the Local Government Act of 1893-4, Section 33, Parliament enacted as follows—

"The Local Government Board may, on the application of the council of any municipal borough, make an order conferring upon that council any powers, duties, or liabilities of overseers."

What was the answer to that? The answer which the right hon. Gentleman gave was that as a matter of fact the Local Government Board had not in a single instance exercised those powers. Very great complaints from all parts of the country had been made against the Local Government Board, and the fact was that the Local Government Board were assuming a power which a mere administrative department ought not to assume. In 1893-94 Parliament clearly contemplated that there were cases in which it would be right to transfer the powers, duties, and liabilities of overseers to a corporate body. The Local Government Board said, "No; there are no cases in which we will transfer those powers." He therefore ventured to say that the Local Government Board were now really flying in the face of that Act of Parliament. He cited this section of the Act as showing that Parliament did not fear what the right hon. Gentleman expressed himself as so much afraid of—namely, the merging of personal responsibility, because Parliament always contemplated that there might be cases in which it might be proper that the personal liability should be merged in a corporate liability. It was apparently suggested by the right hon. Gentleman that Parliament would be helpless in the face of a corporate body which failed to do its duty. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to have forgotten the writ of mandamus, which would bring the most obstinate body very rapidly to its knees. In fact, he did

not hesitate to say that a writ of mandamus against a corporate body would be more rapid in its effect than an action against overseers. But one of the strongest arguments against the Bill as it stood was that there were more than a dozen vestries in London which were already entitled to exercise, and which did exercise, the functions of overseers; and he spoke the more freely upon this point because a parish in Bethnal Green, a part of which he represented, was one of the vestries which was entitled to exercise the duties of overseers. He submitted that the proposals of the Bill were distinctly retrograde. The vestries which were already entrusted with powers had good right to complain if the powers which they had enjoyed so long, and in the exercise of which they had not, so far as he knew, incurred any censure, were taken away from them. So far as the financial operations were concerned, surely the responsibility of a corporate body was far more effectual and far better security than that of an individual. As to the question of expense, the Bill expressly indicated that it should be the duty of the borough council to provide and maintain the office of the overseer. It must be obvious that the expense of providing and maintaining a separate office for the overseers would be considerably greater than the expense which it now incurred when the duties of overseers were performed as part of, and along with, other duties which the vestry had to perform. On all these grounds he hoped the decision of the Government was not final, and that, yielding to representations from both sides of the House, they would accede to the substance of the Amendment standing lower down in the Paper.

MR. LOWLES (Shoreditch, Haggerston) ventured to join in the appeal made by the hon. Gentleman opposite. If they were to collect and analyse the opinion of the provincial boroughs, which had been so largely quoted in the course of the discussion, they would find they were unanimously against the perpetuation of a system which ought long ago to have been obsolete, and which had been found in practice disadvantageous from every point of view. He held in his hand a letter from the controller and auditor of the Borough of Liverpool, in which he strongly supported the proposal to make

the important changes suggested by the Amendment. The Town Clerk of Wakefield wrote him in a similar sense, and the whole of the municipal boroughs throughout the country urged the reform in the direction of the Amendment. As had been urged by several speakers, they could quote practice in support of the proposal. No fewer than 13 metropolitan authorities—and those the most important and progressive and best managed of the Local Authorities of London—had for a long time enjoyed, under certain local Acts, the privilege of making the rates directly by the vestry. In the case of Shoreditch, the privilege had been enjoyed for nearly 100 years; and the opportunities he had had for comparison convinced him that the advantage was all on the side of the vestry, which had the powers vested directly in itself. He could easily imagine that if they duplicated offices they doubled expenses. He did not see why they should want to perpetuate an anomaly in place of securing throughout London a very important reform. He ventured to say, as against any sentimental objection, that the practical advantage of the proposed reform was so manifest that it ought to have weight with the Government.

SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) begged to associate himself with hon. Members opposite, and many hon. Members on his own side of the House, in making a strenuous appeal to the Government to listen to their suggestions with regard to the question of overseers. The compromise that the Government had suggested was, in effect, that they would allow the Local Government Board to appoint certain overseers, provided those overseers were members of the borough council. Without going back in any way upon what they had laid down in that clause, he suggested to the Government that they might utilise a subsequent clause in the Bill, namely,—Clause 15, Sub-section c, which provided that a Committee of the Privy Council might have powers to exercise the duties which the Local Government Board exercised in the past. It was generally understood that the unanimous desire of all the London boroughs was that they should have the control of the overseers themselves; and if the Committee of the Privy Council, when they were working out their scheme for the

Mr. Pickersgill.

future, approached the boroughs, he was perfectly certain that that would be found to be the fact. The Privy Council might very well be left to decide the matter.

*MR. SHARPE (Kensington, North) said his constituents were very strongly in favour of the borough council obtaining the power which was now exercised by the vestry. He must say that he did not regard the argument of the First Lord of the Treasury about the personal responsibility as a fatal objection. It seemed to him that pressure could be brought by mandamus against the corporate body, and would have as much effect as against individuals, and he hoped the Government would see their way to allow the change proposed. Next to that, the suggestion of the First Lord of the Treasury seemed to open the way for conciliation between those holding opposite opinions, namely, that the councils should appoint overseers from their own bodies. It had been suggested to him that there would be a difficulty as to whether members of the council would be willing to act as overseers. However, if the statutory obligation were thrown upon them, he could not but think that the members of the council would have sufficient local patriotism to rise to the occasion. He thought that if it were provided that the overseers should not be too numerous, the views of hon. Members on both sides might be harmonised, but he trusted that whatever might be done, the selection of overseers would be confined to the council itself.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster) desired to associate himself with the remarks made on both sides of the House as to this question. He hoped very earnestly that the Government would be ready to reconsider their decision. He hardly liked to say it, but he really did not think the proposal that the Government had made could, in effect, be called much of a concession at all. The committee which the Government proposed to appoint would not report their proceedings to the council, but they were to have the whole management of the duties of overseers in their power, without reference to the council of which they were members. It really seemed to him that they might as well not be members of the council. Reference had been made to the various vestries which already had the power, and he confessed that if the

Government had brought forward one single instance of fraud in levying rates, or in the preparation of the voters' list, he would have been prepared to take up a different position. But no such case had been brought forward.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth) said he quite concurred in the criticisms which had been made, and agreed with the hon. Gentleman opposite in regard to the object he desired to obtain. He ventured to suggest, however, that a much more simple way of achieving the object which seemed to be desired would be by adopting the phraseology of the Government clause, and making a series of very simple verbal alterations, instead of the long clause which the hon. Member had so carefully prepared.

MR. MARKS (Tower Hamlets, St. George's) said that while there had been quite exceptional unanimity amongst the London Members in favour of the abolition of overseers on the new borough councils, not a single argument had been adduced in support of the retention of overseers as they at present existed. The institution of overseers was an antediluvian office, without honour, without distinction, and almost without utility. There was no duty which the overseers now perform which the new borough councils could not perform equally well, and, perhaps, with greater usefulness. He sincerely hoped that the Government would see their way to make some substantial and useful concession to the body of opinion on both sides of the House. This was not a question which involved a high political principle, but it was a matter of extreme importance to the proper discharge of the duties of the new councils. Both sides of the House were practically unanimous, and the Government would be wise to give way.

*SIR T. G. FARDELL (Paddington, S.) said that under an old Act of George IV. the overseers in Paddington had always been members of the vestry, and, having been himself a member of the vestry for 22 years, he could say that it had answered perfectly well. As an illustration that it was an advantage to have overseers in place of a committee he said that two years ago, when there was a wide difference of opinion in regard to the manner in which the list of

voters had been prepared, the revising barrister had the overseers up before him, and threatened to inflict all sorts of pains and penalties upon them. He believed that when they had important duties to perform, it was not so well to appoint a committee of the council, as to elect two or three to represent the body. He believed what the First Lord of the Treasury had in his mind was expressed in an Amendment by his hon. friend the Member for Bow, that it should be the duty of every borough council to appoint certain numbers of their members to act under the direction and authority of the council in all matters relating to the duties of overseers.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND could not understand how the Government considered that these duties would be better discharged by overseers than by the borough councils. There were 13 vestries now in London which discharged the duties of overseers, and no one could say that their duties had not been well discharged. The opinion of the Local Government Board must not be allowed to overrule the practically unanimous opinion of those who were interested and took part in local government work, and certainly it ought not to be allowed to interfere with the actual efficient working of this Bill. The Bill was intended to promote simplification, but it would promote further complications. It was intended to reduce the number of subsidiary bodies, but it would, in many districts, increase their number. It was intended to increase the powers and dignity of the borough councils, but the tendency of the Bill was to strip many of the vestries of many of the powers which they at present possessed. He believed the opinion of the Local Government Board on this matter rested on a very shadowy basis. The overseers at present had no appreciation of their duties, and no appreciation of the pains and penalties which might be inflicted on them. In many of the districts the overseers were small shopkeepers, on whom it would be absurd to distrain, and therefore the safeguard to which the Local Government Board attached such value was quite unreal. As a matter of fact, now the duties of the overseers were performed, and would continue to be performed, by the officials of the borough councils. It was clear, therefore, that those officials should have no divided

loyalty, but that their services should be devoted to the borough council, and not to a separate body.

*MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said that the House was absolutely harmonious, the London Members were unanimous, and on a matter of London government the voice of London's representatives should be heard when they asked for an arrangement which had been proved to be economical and in every way advantageous. There were countless reasons which could be given in support of the Amendment, and he had been perplexing his mind what could be the reason for the Government refusing it.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): The Local Government Board.

*MR. COHEN: Oh! he dismissed the Local Government Board. He did not think the Local Government Board should be heard on a question of local government when it had been shown to be in absolute and diametric conflict to the voice of the representatives of London. The First Lord of the Treasury had said that he desired to have councillors as overseers, not in their corporate capacity, but as individuals who could be held responsible. He did not think there was much in the argument.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What I said was that, of course, the overseers would remain exactly as they are, personally responsible. But, as they will all be appointed by the borough council from the members of the borough council, they would, from the point of view of the borough council, be practically a committee of the council.

*MR. COHEN thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the explanation, but he still remained perplexed. This was an arrangement which did not give the right hon. gentleman what he wanted, namely, the individual responsibility, while it did not give the representatives of London what they wanted, the corporate responsibility in the management of their affairs. This was no capricious desire on their part. The arrangement had been tried, and proved to be successful. He had a return before him which showed that out of a rateable value of over 25 millions the rates on 15 millions were made and collected

Sir T. G. Fardell.

directly by existing vestries ; and that the average in the £ of the rates so collected was 5s. 10½*d.*, as against an average of 6s. 4½*d.* in the parishes where the rates were collected by overseer or other bodies.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Which are the richest vestries ?

*MR. COHEN said the return did not show that, but those that were the lowest were St. George's-in-the-East, Plumstead, Bermondsey, Camberwell, Mile End, Rotherhithe. His right hon. friend might be assured that the return was made up less according to the wealth of the various parishes than according to the rateable value which assured their income. But he did not press this matter solely on the ground of economy, but because it was almost the unanimous desire of London expressed through its representatives.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said the objections of the Government to the Amendment were rather theoretical than practical, and until it was shown that it was easier to deal with individual overseers than with the different vestries, the objection would remain theoretical. When they imposed public duties on these public bodies, reliance ought to be placed on their public spirit. The Government should give way to the unanimous expression of opinion on the part of the London representatives, as well as those vestries and people who were practically acquainted with local government.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER said he wished to add his voice to the chorus of opinion in favour of the Amendment. The local authority of St. Pancras, which returned four supporters of the Government, carried out the duties of overseers by a finance committee, and they did their duty very well. They were told that the finance committee had not personal responsibility. He should like to ask if the overseers were really responsible. In some cases they collected as much as a million sterling of rates, and he ventured to say that, if called upon, they could not pay £500. If the overseers, or overlookers, who had overlooked every duty they had had to perform, were absolutely abolished, the duty could be carried out by thoroughly efficient

officials. Why should hon. Members pay £100, or £200, every year for registration expenses instead of the work being done by Government officials, as was the case in Scotland, and in some parts of Ireland? He wondered why the Government in this matter did not take into their counsels some of their supporters in the east and south, or even the north, of London.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am bound to say that the unanimity of the London Members, when they are unanimous, is marvellous, as Sheridan observed on a similar occasion. While I have listened to a great number of speeches on both sides of the House, all pointing in the same direction, I confess they do not seem to me to grasp the real point. Remember that London in this respect is not in any sense peculiar. Lists have to be prepared and rates collected in other places besides London. Over the whole of England, municipal and non-municipal, the system of personal responsibility, which is that which I desire to maintain in the Bill, is maintained practically intact. To tell me that London Members are unanimous is not to tell me quite enough. This is not a matter peculiar in London. If we say that in London every borough is to be the authority for the purpose of the collection of rates and the preparation of lists, of course the case is given away for the whole of England.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My hon. friend who wants that change very naturally cheers the sentiment, but nine-tenths of the members who are listening to me are Members for London constituencies and are not members for England—outside London. This question cannot be decided on a debate confined to London. Hon. Members for London practically desire to settle a controversy in which all England is as much concerned, and as directly concerned, as they are. That, it will be admitted, is a very strong argument for consideration. It is perfectly true that there have been a certain number of private Acts giving to individual bodies the power now desired to be given to all London, but the option has been endorsed by no general Act applying to all cases. The only power at all approaching this which the House of Commons has given

to any body is the power given by the Act of 1894 to the Local Government Board, and which was a power, not of making local bodies overseers, but only a power of appointing overseers.

MR. STUART said that by Section 53 of the Act of 1894 local bodies might be made overseers.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I have got the section, and I read it in a different sense from the hon. Member. I rather think that the Local Government Board also have interpreted it in a different sense. The power thus conferred on the Local Government Board six years ago has never once been used in giving to any body the duty of the overseers. I think that everybody must feel that, taking so great an initiative on a large scale, of making the overseers a corporate body with no personal responsibility, is taking a departure which ought only to be taken after the fullest reflection, after the most careful examination of its effect, both in the country and in London, and after opinion in the country, as well as opinion in London, has been consulted. I cannot consent, at the present stage of the Bill, to accept the opinion which has been so unanimously pressed upon me by my hon. friends. I admit that that unanimity is a fact which the Government cannot ignore. It must, however, be taken into most careful and deliberate consideration, and I am sure the London Members will feel for me that I am not unduly obstinate or unduly wedded to the opinions I have expressed to the House when I say that in view of the general and national bearings, on England, at all events, and the decision which the House of Commons is asked to give to-night, they must give me time between now and the Report stage to consider the opinions expressed. I can promise them that I will give it—with the assistance of such advice as I can obtain from the Local Government Board—the most impartial consideration. In the opinion of the Local Government Board personal responsibility has proved a great check in the past. I shall examine that very carefully; and I am sure if I can show the House that personal responsibility in this matter is a vital and important question over a large portion of the country, it will feel with me that this change should be made not only for London alone, but for the country at

large. If I find this is an academic point which may look very well on paper, but which is seldom employed in practice, I shall be very glad to give way. I fully recognise that the proposal is almost the unanimous wish of the London Members, and the Government will consider it without any foregone conclusion. If hon. Members will consent to refer the final decision on this question until Report, it shall receive the fullest and most partial consideration of the Government.

MR. STUART said he desired to point out that the point had been raised without any party feeling and with practical unanimity. He would not say the House had been unanimous, but London had been unanimous for the reform suggested, and there had not been a voice raised from the rest of the country to protest against it. The right hon. Gentleman suggested that if it were done for London it would decide the question for the rest of the country, but the whole question of overseers was bound up with that of assessment and valuation, and the law for London under the Metropolis Valuation Act and Amending Acts was essentially different from the valuation law of the rest of the country, and had been so for thirty years. He had been a member of the Royal Commission which recommended that it should be extended to the rest of the country, but it had not yet been done, nor was it likely to be done. If the reform were made for London they would only be adding one more change to the many others which existed in the valuation law between London and the provinces. Even if the question were now to be decided for the rest of the country, all the evidence showed that the rest of the country would welcome the decision. They had not had one word in defence of the proposal in the Bill except that it would give personal responsibility, but in all the most important vestries of London, such as Kensington, Paddington, Marylebone, St. George's, Hanover Square, St. James's, Westminster, St. Pancras, and Islington, whose government was sound and successful, they had the arrangement of being themselves the overseers, and the system had been in force for close on a hundred years. He wished to point out to the right hon. Gentleman that the Bill was intended to give additional power to the vestries, but if the proposal in the Bill were adopted, they would take away from the most im-

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portant and successful vestries a power which practically would counterbalance in its effect many of the powers to be given to them. This was not a party question, as was shown by the names of the vestries he had mentioned, and he echoed the appeal of the hon. Gentleman the member for East Islington for the reform now proposed. The only argument against it was that it might prepare the rest of the country for that reform also. He had shown there was no reason to believe or imagine or expect it would do so, and even if it did the country would welcome it.

*COLONEL HUGHES said he wished to meet the argument of individual responsibility on the part of the overseers. The responsibility of the overseers would be greatly diminished under the Bill. They could not even draw cheques or pay their own expenses, and the office where they would transact their business would be provided by the borough councils. He did not think that overseers would take office if they were shorn of their powers in such a manner. Why should they disturb the fifteen large vestries who now were overseers themselves, or the desire of the other vestries to have that power? The new overseers shorn of their power would be merely dummies. In his opinion the proper course would be that a committee of the borough council should be responsible as overseers, the difference being that the borough councils could remove the committee at any time, but if they appointed half a dozen men as overseers they would have no control over them, and the only knowledge the ratepayers would have of their existence would be a demand note for the rates.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If I may interrupt my hon. friend, he will have noticed that the whole of my point from the beginning to the end of the discussion has been to maintain the view which I believe to be the view of the Local Government Board, that personal responsibility must, in some way, be maintained. I do not know whether the Committee would accept my hon. friend's view. Personally I have no objection to it, but I would strongly urge that the question should be deferred.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that the Leader of the House stated he could not

accept the Amendment because it would involve a change of the law for the rest of the country. He did not see why London should be damnified and placed in a worse position than it was before, because of the question of the law affecting the rest of the country. As regarded assessment and rating, London was always, and must be always, different from the rest of the country. Therefore he did not think that the argument of the right hon. Gentleman should stand, and he advised his hon. friend to take a Division. It was not a party question, and they had the unanimous support of the London Members.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that before the Report stage he would satisfy the right hon. Gentleman that provincial opinion was not unanimous in regard to this matter. In matters relating to rating and the right to vote they did not want different authorities, they wanted one well-known authority able to deal with the question.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he had never seen so good a champion for so bad a cause as the right hon. Gentleman. Why had he not left it to the President of the Local Government Board to take on himself to argue for the personal responsibility he advocated? His answer to the right hon. Gentleman was, where was the President of the Local Government Board? He had involved the Leader of the House in a difficulty, and he now asked that he be produced. As he did not see the President of the Local Government Board present, he would give one or two reasons why they should have a decision on the subject now. The Committee had been struck by the practical unanimity of the London Members, and he had in a very compact form the view of his district on the matter, and it was that the powers, duties, and responsibilities of overseers should be transferred to the borough councils. Why did Battersea want to get rid of the overseers? For precisely the same reason as the right hon. Gentleman desired to retain them. They wanted responsibility. They had now a clique of gentlemen who acted as overseers. They were not always the best men of the parish, who were generally men on the Parliamentary and finance committees, and he believed that if the duties of the

overseers were transferred to those committees, the work would be better done and there would not be that dissatisfaction with the way in which the duties were now discharged. He now came from the general to the particular. The House of Commons dearly loved a precedent, and while the right hon. Gentleman was finding one in one direction, he found another in the opposite direction. In the Local Government Act of 1894 all the powers and duties of overseers of parish councils had been transferred to a committee of these councils, and the churchwardens of every rural parish ceased to be the overseers. If the right hon. Gentleman had ever seen churchwardens and overseers jobbing and mal-administering charities he would not have such sympathy for them, and would exclude them on this clause, and not defer their punishment until the Report stage. If the reform were necessary for ordinary parish councils, how much more necessary was it for districts like Westminster and Battersea. The London overseers sat in private, never reported, and many of the chief committees had to adopt their warrants and accept their whims and idiosyncrasies. In preparing the list of voters the primary responsibility ought to be fixed on the clerk of the new borough councils, and the duties of the overseers should be discharged by the finance committee. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman not to defer the consideration of the matter until the Report stage. It would only give the London Members an opportunity of accumulating more arguments. If the question was deferred, and if the President of the Local Government Board were in the House, it would take him two days to reply.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should suggest that the discussion be dropped, or that we should divide. I think it will be admitted on all sides that I have done my best to weigh the arguments, and under the circumstances it will be wholly undesirable to press the matter to Division. Parish councils can only appoint overseers, they have no power to act as overseers themselves, and therefore the deliberate intention of Parliament in the matter was certainly, in 1896, not to give these powers. Little can be gained by further prolongation of the debate.

Mr. John Burns.

MR. SHADWELL (Hastings) said he entirely supported the line adopted by the Metropolitan members. He, however, asked the hon. Member not to press the matter to a Division after the promise of the right hon. Gentleman to consider the matter before the Report stage.

MR. LOUGH said he desired to direct the attention of the Committee to the most extraordinary Parliamentary situation they had ever witnessed. No one had risen on either side of the House to support the view which the First Lord of the Treasury wanted to press down the throats of the House of Commons. The right hon. Gentleman asked them to postpone the matter until the Report stage. That appeared on the surface a reasonable request, but the whole point was raised a fortnight ago, and the Solicitor-General then asked them to postpone the matter until Clause 11, and they were told that they should then hear the views of the Government, and now on Clause 11 they were asked to postpone it until the Report stage. He did not think that was a reasonable request. Every point had been argued out, and he thought some decision should be come to. It appeared to him that the right hon. Gentleman did not pay sufficient attention to the experience of London, which claimed to be the greatest municipality in the kingdom, and which had as large a population as all the other municipalities put together. The Metropolitan Board of Works invariably sent its precepts to the vestries, but in the Act of 1888 an arrangement was put in at the instigation of the Local Government Board that the precepts should be sent to the overseers. They had had 30 years' experience of the precepts going direct to the vestries, and only 10 years' experience of the precepts going to the overseers direct. The right hon. Gentleman said if the precepts went to these bodies there would not be any question of responsibility. He wished to examine that argument. When the precept of the Metropolitan Board of Works went to the bodies, the Board could, if necessary, collect, but when the precepts went to the overseers and was not collected, there was nothing left but distraint on the furniture of the overseers. Therefore the argument that there was better security in the collection of the rates by the overseers direct was absurd. The right hon. Gentleman now suggested

a concession which was worse than the clause, and which was unworkable, namely, that certain members of the new council should be appointed overseers. He would give one instance. Wandsworth had five great parishes. How could the suggestion be carried out there? Would there be five committees of two each, one for each of the five parishes, or would there be only one committee of ten? If only one committee, then the system would be unworkable. He acknowledged the fair spirit shown by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, and he inquired why was he so obstinate now. The reason was that he had got the President or the Secretary of the Local Government Board near him during the Debate. The Local Government Board was always the devil's advocate when London questions were raised. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to put aside the evil counsels of the Board. If there were to be a Division let it be a Division of London members only, as it was a London question; and he asked the right hon. Gentleman not to vote them down by the mechanical majority of the Government.

MR. MARKS said he accepted the conciliatory proposal which the right hon. Gentleman had made, and he earnestly appealed to hon. Members on the other side not to go to a Division. By so doing they would only be courting an adverse verdict on a matter in respect to which at a later stage they might hope for a satisfactory solution. The undertaking given by the right hon. Gentleman had been most uncompromising, and he earnestly hoped there would not be a Division.

MR. STUART said, that as he saw the President of the Local Government Board present, perhaps he would let the Committee know what was the difficulty which the Board had found in carrying out the system proposed.

MR. BARTLEY asked if it was intended that they should go on amending the clause, or would it be withdrawn temporarily.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My hon. friend has addressed a very reasonable question, and I will answer it. I think the clause should be passed as it is *pro formâ*. Every one who desires the rapid progress of the Bill will accept that, because it is distinctly

understood that no one is committed by assenting to that course to any line of the clause on the Report stage, and every Member will be as free on the Report stage as if the discussion had never taken place.

MR. BOUSFIELD said that if hon. Members persisted in fighting the matter to a Division after what the Government had said they would be doing more harm than good. A great many Members who believed in the Amendment would, after the statement of his right hon. friend, feel bound to support the Government. He would therefore ask hon. Members not to press the matter to a Division.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I think the course proposed by the right hon. Gentleman is hardly an entirely reasonable one, nor a course in accordance with the ordinary practice in Committee of this House. It has been suggested that the clause should be withdrawn, and if the clause is going to be a subject of consideration on the part of the Government, surely the best course is not to express an opinion on the subject at the present stage. If the clause is persisted in, my hon. friends on this side who entertain so strong an opinion on the subject will be obliged to carry the Amendment to a Division. Undoubtedly that Division would not represent the general sense of the House, because a large number of Members on the other side will regard it as merely a formal matter, and they will support the Government, not meaning what they vote for. That is the condition under which such a Division would be taken, and it seems totally new in our practice. It may occur without being declared publicly; but on this occasion you would be going into the Lobby with the public declaration that it all meant nothing whatever. The most regular, proper, and convenient course would be that the right hon. Gentleman, without in any way compromising his position, should withdraw the clause and allow the whole matter to be considered *de novo* on the Report stage.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I only rise now to explain to the right hon. Gentleman that the Committee is, to a certain extent, in a difficult position. I think the best course is to pass the clause *pro formâ*. He thinks the best course is to omit

to any body is the power given by the Act of 1894 to the Local Government Board, and which was a power, not of making local bodies overseers, but only a power of appointing overseers.

MR. STUART said that by Section 33 of the Act of 1894 local bodies might be made overseers.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have got the section, and I read it in a different sense from the hon. Member. I rather think that the Local Government Board also have interpreted it in a different sense. The power thus conferred on the Local Government Board six years ago has never once been used in giving to any body the duty of the overseers. I think that everybody must feel that, taking so great an initiative on a large scale, of making the overseers a corporate body with no personal responsibility, is taking a departure which ought only to be taken after the fullest reflection, after the most careful examination of its effect, both in the country and in London, and after opinion in the country, as well as opinion in London, has been consulted. I cannot consent, at the present stage of the Bill, to accept the opinion which has been so unanimously pressed upon me by my hon. friends. I admit that that unanimity is a fact which the Government cannot ignore. It must, however, be taken into most careful and deliberate consideration, and I am sure the London Members will feel for me that I am not unduly obstinate or unduly wedded to the opinions I have expressed to the House when I say that in view of the general and national bearings, on England, at all events, and the decision which the House of Commons is asked to give to-night, they must give me time between now and the Report stage to consider the opinions expressed. I can promise them that I will give it—with the assistance of such advice as I can obtain from the Local Government Board—the most impartial consideration. In the opinion of the Local Government Board personal responsibility has proved a great check in the past. I shall examine that very carefully; and I am sure if I can show the House that personal responsibility in this matter is a vital and important question over a large portion of the country, it will feel with me that this change should be made not only for London alone, but for the country at

large. If I find this is an academic point which may look very well on paper, which is seldom employed in practice, I shall be very glad to give way. I recognise that the proposal is almost the unanimous wish of the London Members, and the Government will consider it without any foregone conclusion. If the Members will consent to refer the final decision on this question until the Report, I shall receive the fullest and most partial consideration of the Government.

MR. STUART said he desired to point out that the point had been raised without any party feeling and with practical unanimity. He would not say the House had been unanimous, but London had been unanimous for the reform suggested, and there had not been a voice raised from the rest of the country to protest against it. The right hon. Gentleman suggested that if it were done for London it would decide the question for the rest of the country, but the whole question of overseers was bound up with that of assessment and valuation, and the law for London under the Metropolis Valuation Act and Amending Acts was essentially different from the valuation law of the rest of the country, and had been so for thirty years. He had been a member of the Royal Commission which recommended that it should be extended to the rest of the country, but it had not yet been done, nor was it likely to be done. If the reform were made for London they would only be adding one more change to the many others which existed in the valuation law between London and the provinces. Even if the question were now to be decided for the rest of the country, all the evidence showed that the rest of the country would welcome the decision. They had not had one word in defence of the proposal in the Bill except that it would give personal responsibility, but in all the most important vestries of London, such as Kensington, Paddington, Marylebone, St. George's, Hanover Square, St. James's, Westminster, St. Pancras, and Islington, whose government was sound and successful, they had the arrangement of being themselves the overseers, and the system had been in force for close on a hundred years. He wished to point out to the right hon. Gentleman that the Bill was intended to give additional power to the vestries, but if the proposal in the Bill were adopted, they would take away from the most im-

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

portant and successful vestries a power which practically would counterbalance in its effect many of the powers to be given to them. This was not a party question, as was shown by the names of the vestries he had mentioned, and he echoed the appeal of the hon. Gentleman the member for East Islington for the reform now proposed. The only argument against it was that it might prepare the rest of the country for that reform also. He had shown there was no reason to believe or imagine or expect it would do so, and even if it did the country would welcome it.

*COLONEL HUGHES said he wished to meet the argument of individual responsibility on the part of the overseers. The responsibility of the overseers would be greatly diminished under the Bill. They could not even draw cheques or pay their own expenses, and the office where they would transact their business would be provided by the borough councils. He did not think that overseers would take office if they were shorn of their powers in such a manner. Why should they disturb the fifteen large vestries who now were overseers themselves, or the desire of the other vestries to have that power? The new overseers shorn of their power would be merely dummies. In his opinion the proper course would be that a committee of the borough council should be responsible as overseers, the difference being that the borough councils could remove the committee at any time, but if they appointed half a dozen men as overseers they would have no control over them, and the only knowledge the ratepayers would have of their existence would be a demand note for the rates.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If I may interrupt my hon. friend, he will have noticed that the whole of my point from the beginning to the end of the discussion has been to maintain the view which I believe to be the view of the Local Government Board, that personal responsibility must, in some way, be maintained. I do not know whether the Committee would accept my hon. friend's view. Personally I have no objection to it, but I would strongly urge that the question should be deferred.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that the Leader of the House stated he could not

accept the Amendment because it would involve a change of the law for the rest of the country. He did not see why London should be damnified and placed in a worse position than it was before, because of the question of the law affecting the rest of the country. As regarded assessment and rating, London was always, and must be always, different from the rest of the country. Therefore he did not think that the argument of the right hon. Gentleman should stand, and he advised his hon. friend to take a Division. It was not a party question, and they had the unanimous support of the London Members.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that before the Report stage he would satisfy the right hon. Gentleman that provincial opinion was not unanimous in regard to this matter. In matters relating to rating and the right to vote they did not want different authorities, they wanted one well-known authority able to deal with the question.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he had never seen so good a champion for so bad a cause as the right hon. Gentleman. Why had he not left it to the President of the Local Government Board to take on himself to argue for the personal responsibility he advocated? His answer to the right hon. Gentleman was, where was the President of the Local Government Board? He had involved the Leader of the House in a difficulty, and he now asked that he be produced. As he did not see the President of the Local Government Board present, he would give one or two reasons why they should have a decision on the subject now. The Committee had been struck by the practical unanimity of the London Members, and he had in a very compact form the view of his district on the matter, and it was that the powers, duties, and responsibilities of overseers should be transferred to the borough councils. Why did Battersea want to get rid of the overseers? For precisely the same reason as the right hon. Gentleman desired to retain them. They wanted responsibility. They had now a clique of gentlemen who acted as overseers. They were not always the best men of the parish, who were generally men on the Parliamentary and finance committees, and he believed that if the duties of the

reforms which the Commission appointed by his own Government had unanimously recommended.

*COLONEL HUGHES thought that until the borough councils could do all the assessing throughout London it was better to avoid a mixed jurisdiction, and leave matters as they were.

MR. LOUGH suggested that this clause might also be postponed. There was, he said, quite as much unanimity on the other side as on his side of the House, with regard to the course which ought to be adopted. He did not think the process proposed in the Bill would work in London. The object of the Bill was to simplify

matters, and if the Government had accepted the Amendment it would have resulted in simplifying the question of assessment and securing the adoption of the method upon which everybody was agreed.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND said he would not press his Amendment.

Leave to withdraw the Amendment being refused,

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 165; Noes, 99.—(Division List No. 149.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Anon, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bogot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Blakiston-Houston, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Fred Lucas (Lambeth)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
Cross, Herbert Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Folkestone, Viscount
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Garfit, William
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of London)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D. (Wesbury)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Green, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessell, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Cornwall)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lea, Sir Thos. (London derry)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macdonald, John Cunningham

Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
McCalmont, H. L. B. (Cambs.)
Massey-Mainwaring, Hon. W. F.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J. and
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hon. Fred. (Monmouth)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Depton)
Mount, William George
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bates)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Percy, Earl
Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rankin, Sir James
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derbyshire)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancashire)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Tallot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.

Mr. Stunt.

Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-

Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcesters N.)
Wyndham, George

Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Wm. (Newc. under Lyme)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Ath-ley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Bainbridge, Emerson
Baker, Sir John
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness)
Clough, Walter Owen
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colville, John
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Crosby, Alexander (Glasgow)
Daly, James
Davitt, Michael
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Galloway, William Johnson

Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvon)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb. land)
Leng, Sir John
Lough, Thomas
Lowles, John
Macaleese, Daniel
McArthur, William (Cornwall)
McKenna, Reginald
McLaren, Charles Benjamin
McLeod, John
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Marks, Henry Hananel
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Oldroyd, Mark
Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Phillips, John Wynford

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowden
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfar)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Ure, Alexander
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Lionel Holland and
Mr. Cripps.

The next Amendment on the Paper was—

“ In page 8, line 40, at end, to add ‘ appointed by the borough council, but no councillor shall be eligible to sit on such assessment committee who has acted as overseer, or otherwise, in the primary valuation of the property.’ ”—(Mr. R. G. Webster.)

*THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that the question was dependent upon the decision the Committee had recently come to, and that the Amendment was therefore out of order.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“ That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill.”

MR. STUART said the clause was dead in the teeth of the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and as a member of that Commission he could not assent to the passing of the clause.

Question put.

The Committee divided—Ayes, 170
Noes, 78.—(Division List No. 150.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket

Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Blakiston-Houston, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)

Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelms, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas, Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Columb, Sir John Charles Ready

Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Folkestone, Viscount
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Golson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D. (Wend'sbury)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hermion-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)

Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Jettreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Kimber, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
McAlmont, H. L. B. (Cambs.)
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Marks, Henry Hananel
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monmouthsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Merton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William George
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Phillipotts, Captain Arthur

Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rankin, Sir James
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlepool)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomas
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derbyshire)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strangford)
Stanley, Edwd. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Joseph Powell- (Bristol)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestershire)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, F.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES -
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Wm. (Newc. under Lyme)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herb. Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Bainbridge, Emerson
Baker, Sir John
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Cuthness-sh.)
Clough, Walter Owen
Colville, John
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Daly, James
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Goldard, Daniel Ford

Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
Hazzell, Walter
Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, James
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Leng, Sir John
Macaleese, Daniel
McArthur, William (Cornwall)
McKenna, Reginald
McLaren, Charles Benjamin
McLeod, John
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Norton, Captain Cecil Wm.
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Oldroyd, Mark
Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Phillipps, John Wynford
Pickersgill, Edward Hare

Pirie, Duncan V.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Ure, Alexander
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Warner, Thomas Courtney T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Nott.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mitt)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES -
Mr. James Stuart and Mr.
Lough.

Committee report Progress : to sit again to-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS [12TH MAY].

Resolutions reported—

SPIRITS IN BOTTLE.

1. "That, in addition to the Duties of Customs now payable on spirits imported into Great Britain or Ireland, there shall be charged levied, and paid the Duty following, that is to say):—

"Spirits in bottle (including perfumed spirits and liqueurs, cordials, mixture, and other preparations in bottle entered in such a manner as to indicate that the strength is not to be tested) the liquid gallon. . . . One Shilling."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that on Friday night the Chancellor of the Exchequer was asked if he could give the Committee any figures at all on the subject of his new proposal for the surtax on bottled spirits and bottled perfumes. The House had full statistics on the subject of bottled wines, but they had no figures before them with regard to the tax on bottled spirits, because the Customs had not hitherto distinguished between bottled spirits and spirits imported in cask. There was, however, a report from the Consular district of Bordeaux, from which a considerable amount of brandy was shipped to this country, and from that report he gathered that the trade in bottled brandy sent to this country was very large indeed. He imagined that the trade which would be hit by this tax was especially the trade in high-class French brandy, liqueurs, and high-class perfumes. The trade in high-class bottled brandy from Bordeaux alone last year was 325,000 bottles. That was an enormous quantity, and he should be glad if the Chancellor of the Exchequer could place before the House any figures with regard to the effect of this tax.

MR. LOUGH said he would like to understand the principle on which the right hon. Gentleman was proceeding, and asked whether the proposed tax made any differentiation in favour of home-made spirits.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): There will be no differentiation between the spirits manufactured in this country and foreign spirits not imported in bottle. With regard to the question asked

by the right hon. Baronet, the Member for the Forest of Dean, it is true that there are no existing statistics showing the amount of spirits imported in the year in bottle and in cask, but from figures for two months, which I have taken out, it may fairly be calculated that for the year there would be roughly an import of bottled spirits of 1,200,000 gallons, and of this amount, not far short of two-thirds would be brandy. The rest would be made up from the different classes of spirits, some less and some more valuable.

Resolution agreed to.

STAMP DUTIES.

2. "That, in lieu of the Stamp Duties mentioned in the Resolutions numbered 2 and 4, relating to Stamp Duties agreed to by the House on the fourteenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, there shall be charged the following Stamp Duties, namely—

- (1) on all foreign and colonial marketable securities transferable by delivery which are not at present chargeable with Stamp Duty, and which are negotiated in the United Kingdom after the first day of August one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine; and
- (2) on any instrument to bearer by means of which any share or stock of any company or body of persons formed or established out of the United Kingdom is, after the first day of August one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, negotiated in the United Kingdom, a stamp duty of one shilling for every ten pounds, and also for any fractional part of ten pounds, in the case of a marketable security of the money thereby secured, and in the case of any such instrument to bearer of the nominal value of the share or stock to which the instrument relates."

STILL WINES IN BOTTLE.

3. "That, in lieu of the Duties of Customs payable, under the Resolution reported from the Committee of Ways and Means on the fourteenth day of April and then agreed to by the House, on still wine imported into Great Britain or Ireland in bottle, there shall be charged, levied, and paid the same Duties in respect of alcoholic strength as if the wine were in cask, and an additional Duty, the gallon One Shilling."

Resolutions agreed to.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Finance Bill that they have power to make provision therein pursuant to the said Resolutions.—
(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

FINANCE (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.
Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 2, amended, and agreed to.

Clause 3, amended, and agreed to.

New clause (Additional duties on spirits)—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*) brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
“That the clause be read a second time.”

MR. COURTNEY asked what was the amount expected to be realised from this new duty.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I am afraid the result will be that I shall be several thousands of pounds worse off than I had expected. The loss on wines is estimated at £110,000, while the additional duty on

spirits will not produce more than £40,000 or £50,000.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added.

Bill reported, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

COLONIAL LOANS FUND BILL.
Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 :—

Committee report Progress ; to sit again this day.

SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) BILL
[Lords.]

As amended, considered ; read the third time, and passed.

Adjourned at ten minutes after
Twelve of the o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday 16th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

JONES'S DIVORCE BILL.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading, read: Counsel called in: Witnesses examined: Moved that the Bill be now read 2^a; the same was agreed to: Bill read 2^a accordingly; and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.
SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON,
CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY
COMPANIES.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

Also the Certificate that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:

GAS LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

COBHAM GAS BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL (LONDON) BILL [Lords].

Committee to meet on Thursday next.

OWEN'S COLLEGE, MANCHESTER BILL [Lords].

To be read 2^a on the first sitting day after the Recess at Whitsuntide.

BROOKE'S PARK (LONDONDERRY) BILL [Lords].

Read 2^a.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed.

VOL. LXXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

LISBURN TOWN COMMISSIONERS BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed.

SCUNTHORPE URBAN DISTRICT GAS AND WATER BILL.

Read 2^a, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

PORT TALBOT RAILWAY AND DOCKS BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

WAKEFIELD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

FISHGUARD AND ROSSLARE RAILWAYS AND HARBOURS BILL, SHIREBROOK AND DISTRICT GAS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

ST. ANDREW'S BURGH PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons, agreed to.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL [Lords].

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 11) BILL [Lords].

Read 2^a (according to order).

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 93).

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [Lords].

2 A

**GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION
(No. 2) BILL [Lords].**

**WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION
BILL [Lords].**

To be read 2^a, on Thursday next.

**WATERMEN'S AND LIGHTERMEN'S
ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [Lords].**

The order made on the 5th instant appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bill, discharged.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

ARMY (PRELIMINARY RETURN).

Preliminary Return of the British Army for 1898 ; with abstracts, &c.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Report of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland ; with appendix, 1898-99.

POLICE (SCOTLAND).

Forty-first Annual Report of Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, for the year ended 31st December, 1898.

TRADE REPORTS.

Annual Series—

No. 2,259. France (Dunkirk).

No. 2,260. Persia (Ispahan and District).

No. 2,261. Italy (Sardinia).

No. 2,262. Turkey (Aleppo).

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Rule dated 29th of April, 1899.

**POST OFFICE (PARCEL POST WITH
PORTUGAL, INCLUDING MADEIRA
AND THE AZORES.)**

Agreement for the express delivery of parcels exchanged between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Portugal, including Madeira and the Azores.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

PRISONS (IRELAND).

Order in Council, approving of a rule made by the General Prisons Board, dated 5th May, 1899 ; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITIONS.

VACCINATION ACTS.

Petition for repeal of ; of *Guardians of the Poor of St. Mary's, Islington* ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS
(BOROUGH FUNDS) ACT, 1872.**

Petition for amendment of ; of *Urban District Council of Wimbledon* ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.

First Report from the Select Committee, made ; to be printed ; and to be considered on Thursday next. (No. 91.)

SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) BILL.

Returned from the Commons and agreed to, with Amendments ; Commons Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to, with an Amendment ; and Bill returned to the Commons.

**LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS BILL
[Lords].**

Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments. The Report thereof to be received on Thursday next ; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 94.)

**PARISH COUNCILLORS (TENURE OF
OFFICE) BILL.**

Reported from the Standing Committee with an Amendment. The Report thereof to be received on Thursday next ; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 95.)

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICA-
TION) ACT (1889) EXTENSION BILL.**

Reported from the Standing Committee without amendment, and to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES (SCOTLAND) ACTS
AMENDMENT BILL.**

Reported from the Standing Committee without amendment, and to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

**LICENSING (DISQUALIFICATION OF
JUSTICES REMOVAL) BILL [Lords].**

Reported from the Standing Committee without amendment, and to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL [Lords].

SECOND READING.

Order for Second Reading read.

*THE EARL OF LICHFIELD: My Lords, the Bill which I am now asking your Lordships to read a second time has been introduced with the object of amending certain recently-discovered flaws in the Isolation Hospitals Act of 1893. That Act applies to England and Wales, but not to Scotland, Ireland, the County of London or County Boroughs. It empowers County Councils to provide or cause to be provided within their respective administrative areas isolation hospitals to serve the district, and it also empowers the County Councils to contribute out of the county rate towards the maintenance of those hospitals. Though the Public Health Act of 1875 has been in operation for 24 years, it has not succeeded in covering the country with isolation hospitals to anything like the extent which is now thought necessary. That is no doubt owing to the fact that the Act is entirely permissive. In Staffordshire we have only one-sixth of the necessary hospital accommodation, provided under the Act of 1875, and to remedy this state of affairs our County Council has lately promulgated a scheme whereby, under certain conditions, they agree to contribute towards the annual expenses of hospitals established under the Act of 1893, and they have also prepared a tentative plan under which the county is divided into suitable hospital districts. We have in our county something like 57 authorities, urban and rural, but under the scheme now proposed we hope to divide the county into only 16 suitable hospital areas. These hospitals are intended to serve a very large population, but in almost every case, except where there are scattered rural districts, they will not be more than five miles from any part of the population they are intended to serve. It seems obvious that a scheme of grouping such as I have mentioned must be conducive both to economy and efficiency. It will be conducive to economy, because where you have a large hospital the expense per bed for construction is less than it would be in a small hospital; and where you have a large hospital serving a large district, the number of beds *pro rata* of the popu-

lation necessary, is less than the number of beds required in a small hospital serving a small district. This grouping also contributes to efficiency, because in a large hospital the staff would be more likely to be up to the times and efficient, than the staff of a small hospital where cases may only be admitted perhaps at intervals of weeks or months. What is occurring in my own county is also taking place throughout the whole of England and Wales. County Councils are desirous of taking advantage of the Act of 1893, and in some cases, indeed, they have already taken partial advantage of that Act, but unfortunately a serious flaw has recently been discovered in it. It had been assumed that where efficient hospitals were in existence, built under the Act of 1875, with the assent of the local authority and the Local Government Board, they might be transferred to the new Hospital Committees, and that the County Councils might contribute to such hospitals if they so pleased. Unfortunately, the Local Government Board have decided that in neither of these cases is it legal so to act, and thus the operations of the Act of 1893 are seriously imperilled. In fact, at the present time there is a deadlock existing in many counties. It will be obvious that, where a comprehensive scheme is initiated by the County Council, in all fairness the Council should be able to give assistance to all parts of the county throughout the administrative area; but the effect of the decision of the Local Government Board will be that where the local authorities have done their duty and have established efficient hospitals, they will be doubly penalised. In the first place, they will be unable either to sell their hospital or obtain a contribution from the County Council. In the second place, they will have to pay their proportion of the county rate to maintain hospitals in other districts in their county which have not been so forward as they have been in providing proper hospital accommodation. Under these circumstances it is very essential that there should be some alteration in the law. I should not have brought this matter forward on my own responsibility or for the benefit only of my county. But this is a matter of great importance to the whole of England and Wales, and I am bringing in this Bill with the assent and the

full support of the County Councils Association of England and Wales, who are most anxious that a change should be made in the law as speedily as possible. I will very briefly refer to the provisions of this Bill. Clause 2 provides that any district council and any joint board constituted under the Public Health Act, 1875, which has provided or acquired under the Public Health Act, 1875, or under any local Act of Parliament, a hospital for the reception of the sick may, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, agree to and carry into effect a transfer and conveyance to the council of the county within which their district is situate, of such hospital and its appurtenances upon such terms and conditions as may be sanctioned by the Local Government Board. Under Clause 4 power is also given to county councils, where they deem it expedient so to do for the benefit of the county, to contribute out of the county rate, on such conditions as they may prescribe, a capital or annual sum towards the structural and the establishment expenses of an isolation hospital or hospitals provided either before or after the passing of this Act by a District Council or a joint board under the Public Health Act, 1875, or under any local Act of Parliament, or to either class of such expenses. Clause 5 gives power to County Councils to borrow money, which they have not the power to do under the Act of 1893. Many County Councils prefer to contribute to the building of these hospitals rather than to give an annual grant, and it is very much desired that they should have the power to borrow money. I am afraid I have troubled your Lordships at some length, but I was anxious to explain the position as best I could. I hope my noble friend who represents the Local Government Board will be able to advise the House to allow the Bill to be read a second time. If there are any points on which we may not be quite agreed, they may be left over for discussion, and, I hope, settlement, in committee. If the Bill is read a second time I do not propose to put down the Committee stage until after the Whitsuntide recess. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

Moved—

"That the Bill be now read 2^a."

LORD HARRIS: My Lords, so far as *Earl of Lichfield*.

the provisions of the Bill give power to a County Council to contribute towards the expenses of a hospital that has been provided by a local authority or Joint Board under the Public Health Act, 1875, or under a local Act, and so far as they give power to the County Council to borrow for the purpose of acquiring the hospitals, the Local Government Board see no objection to the Bill, and quite approve of it; but they are not so satisfied as regards the proposal for taking over a hospital already in existence, and they would prefer to reserve their opinion upon that point until an opportunity is given for further consideration of the subject. The noble Lord cannot, I think, take the Committee stage until after the Whitsuntide recess, and that will give the Local Government Board an opportunity of looking further into the Bill.

On question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a (according to order) and committed to a committee of the whole House.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

COMMITTEE.

House in Committee (according to order).

Clause 1 :—

VISCOUNT HAMPDEN: The Amendment which I now move is a very simple one, and provides that the money required for the construction of works under the Bill should be raised by the companies actually constructing the works. The whole of the companies are agreed as to the desirability of this Amendment, which will avoid administrative inconvenience. For instance, if one company should have to raise £5,000 for the construction of works under this Bill, it is desirable that that company should raise the capital itself and not be required to go to the other companies to ask them to raise separately £600 or £700 apiece. It was simply owing to an oversight that this Amendment was not put in upstairs in Committee.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out "and maintaining'"—(*Viscount Hampden*).

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I accept the Amendment of my noble friend.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In line 2, after 'borne' to insert 'and the money required for the construction of such works shall be raised by the issue of debenture stock under the powers of this Act by the company actually constructing the same, but the interest on such stock shall, subject as herein-after provided, be borne.'"—(*Viscount Hampden*).

Agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2:—

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: My Lords, the Amendment which I now move is rendered necessary by the subsequent Amendment which I have on the paper to strike out the whole of Clause 3. This Amendment raises a question which is certainly not without importance, and I think a few words from me are necessary to explain to your Lordships why those in charge of the Bill have thought it right to take exception to the finding of the Select Committee of your Lordships' House with regard to the sinking fund clause. The inter-communication of the systems of the water companies was proposed in order to avoid the recurrence of a water famine, and the water companies cheerfully undertook the obligation. But your Lordships must understand that the expenditure which they will have to make in order to effect this inter-communication never can produce them any return by way of profit. When this question of inter-communication came before Lord Llandaff's Commission, that Commission recommended that in respect of the capital raised for this purpose the usual sinking fund clause should be introduced. It is upon that recommendation that the Government introduced this Bill in the House of Commons without any sinking fund clause. When the Bill came before the House of Commons the insertion of the sinking fund clause was not insisted upon, although the London County Council is strongly represented in that House; but the Select Committee of your Lordships' House to which the Bill was referred have inserted the clause. The

responsibility must rest with this House in Committee, but the Government still adhere, and strenuously adhere, to the original decision of those who framed this Bill and conducted it through Parliament. It is clear that the sinking fund clause ought not to be inserted in this Bill. Consider for one moment the origin of this clause. Twelve or 13 years ago a Committee, presided over by Lord Claude Hamilton, recommended that if the water companies in the Metropolis borrowed capital money there should be a sinking fund clause inserted in any Bills giving them power to raise that further capital, but what was the object of the recommendation? The object of inserting the clause was that when the companies came to be purchased there would not be a large amount of capital to be paid for by the purchasers. But the capital to be raised by this Bill is not to be used to earn profit, and, therefore, the Government think that the justice of the case requires the omission of the sinking fund clause. The companies will have to perform this duty for the benefit of the consumers without profit or return, and therefore should not be made to contribute to the sinking fund. I know great respect ought to be paid to the decision of the Select Committee of your Lordships' House. I can only say that I have read every word of the argument that was used by the London County Council before that Committee, and I cannot find one suggestion to reply to the reasons that I have given why this sinking fund clause should not be inserted, except the repeated phrase, "You ought to follow precedent." The precedents cannot affect this case, which springs from another and different condition of things.

Amendment moved—

"On page 3, after line 7 insert 'Provided that a company shall not be required to carry to a sinking fund a percentage on the amount of money for the time being raised by the issue of debenture stock created under the powers of this Act.'"—(*Lord James of Hereford*.)

LORD RIBBLESDALE: My Lords, as Chairman of the Select Committee whose action you have just been asked to override, I should like to say a few words on the question of the sinking fund clause, and give to your Lordships the reasons which influenced the Committee to put

the sinking fund clause into the Bill. The noble Lord who has just moved the rejection of the clause lays great stress on the fact that this Bill is in a different category as regards the sinking fund clause to all other Metropolitan Water Bills. To a certain length I am in agreement with him. It is different because it proposes to transfer powers which have been most jealously guarded and exercised by Parliament to a Government Department, but the noble Lord advises you to further intensify the difference between this and other Metropolitan Water Bills in a most important and far-reaching way. He invites you to cut out the sinking fund clause which has been inserted by the Select Committee, and which, upon grounds of public policy and public interest, Parliament has inserted since 1886 into every London Water Bill, and which now applies, I believe, to something over nine millions of capital. Who were the parties to the suit who came before the Select Committee? The parties were the Government and the water companies, and, taking the opposite view of the case, the London County Council and the Corporation of London. The question I asked myself, and which I still ask myself, is, which of those authorities are most likely to understand all the bearings of this great problem of the water supply of London in the interests, and the just interests, of the public of London? Is it the Government and the water companies who tell you that you are to omit this sinking fund clause, or is it the London County Council and the Corporation of London who strongly urge, and as far as they can, insist upon the clause being inserted? With all respect to Her Majesty's Government, it seems to me that the London County Council and the Corporation of London are the bodies most directly responsible, and, further than that, the bodies most directly informed, conversant with, and alive to, all the conditions of this great question. The London County Council came into existence in 1889, and I believe the London water question at once began to absorb its most strenuous industry and investigation. They tried to master it in every possible way. In 1891, they came to Parliament with Bills dealing with the whole question. The Committee presided over by Sir Matthew White Ridley reported that as the representative municipal authority of London

Lord Ribblesdale.

the London County Council should examine and deal with the whole question of the water supply of the Metropolis, and recommend a policy which, for financial and other reasons, it was desirable to adopt. Over and over again I believe that has been affirmed by other Committees and Commissions, and it has been recognised that this water question is the peculiar province of the representative municipal body—namely, the London County Council. What was the view of the London County Council? Acting in the most close and notable concert with the Corporation of London—notable because it is very unusual—the London County Council came to Parliament and told us in the strongest possible way that the capital proposed to be raised by this Bill should be treated as all other capital has invariably been treated by the wisdom and by the foresight of Parliament, and that, in the interest of the consumers, and especially having regard to the fact that a Royal Commission, presided over by Lord Llandaff, is just about to report on the whole question of the London water supply, a sinking fund clause should be put into this Bill. I will now come to the other point made by the noble Lord, which is the main ground upon which he says the sinking fund clause should not be inserted—namely, that the capital proposed to be raised under the Bill is dead money, and that the companies will not get a shilling out of it. He relies for that statement upon two or three sentences in the Interim Report of the Royal Commission, which, of course, I refer to with the greatest possible respect, but which I venture to think are exceedingly ambiguous. I confess that the argument put forward that the capital to be raised under this Bill should be exempted from the sinking fund clause on the ground of not making a profit does not appear to me to hold water even in a Water Bill. I think you might just as well say that the large sums of money which Messrs. Pears and Lipton spend annually on advertising are not profit-earning capital, as to pretend that the money to be raised under this Bill will not be profit-earning capital. What are the conditions that have brought this Bill into being? The default of the East London Water Company. I am not using the word in an offensive way; it constantly occurs in the Report of the Commission. The default of the East London Water Company to carry out its

obligations naturally caused a great deal of feeling, and brought the whole question of the London water supply, as it were, to a head. That default other companies felt threatened their existence, and they very naturally, in self-preservation, decided to take joint action. They are most ready and most willing to meet the Government's view, recognising that this Bill would enable them to raise additional capital which would be a most valuable insurance against risk, and would enable them to carry on their business and continue to earn their profits. In this connection I should like to quote the learned counsel for the water companies—Mr. Pember. Speaking with all the cogency of which he is a master, he said, when he was urging us not to put in this clause, that if the clause was inserted it would—

“seriously amend the Bill against the water companies, for whose benefit, in a very great degree, the Bill was conceived.”

I was so surprised at this statement that I gave him an opportunity of correcting himself by saying that I thought the Bill was introduced for the benefit of the public, but he did not avail himself of the opportunity.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: He did correct himself. He said it was for the benefit of the public.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: I quite agree with Mr. Pember that this Bill will prove of enormous benefit to the water companies, and will give them a new and unlimited lease of power and authority. The Select Committee were unanimous in the course they took, and I have a letter here from Lord Newton in which he says he is unfortunately obliged to go away owing to his Yeomanry inspection, otherwise he would be very glad to corroborate my statement as to the unanimity of the Committee with regard to the insertion of this clause. I defend the Committee's action on three main grounds—namely, (1) that the London County Council and the Corporation of London are better judges of the just interests of the people of London, present and future, than Her Majesty's Government and the water companies; (2) that the capital to be raised under this Bill, inasmuch as it adds to the dividend-earning and paying capacity of the water companies and to the stability of their undertakings, should be

treated as these issues of capital have invariably been treated since 1886; and (3) that no good economic or financial reasons can be shown for interrupting the practice of Parliament and the continuity of legislation by omitting the sinking fund clauses which have now been applied by Parliament to nine millions of capital.

***VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD:** My Lords, in my opinion the Committee have taken up a false position in regarding the money to be raised under this Bill as dividend-earning money. The money is to be raised for the special purpose of saving the water consumers from the very painful and distressing evils from which they suffered last year. I am not going to defend the East London Water Company or to attack them, but I would point out that the other companies have not failed in any way to supply their customers with water. They felt, however, that for the benefit of the water consumers of East London inter-communication should be made between the various companies. This inter-communication will benefit the company which fails to give water and the consumers, but it does not in any way benefit the large majority of the companies. If the companies were raising money for the purpose of earning more dividend, then certainly the sinking fund clause ought to be put in. But this money is to be raised for a special purpose; no profit can be made on it, but interest will have to be paid upon it. I fail to see any ambiguity in the Report of the Royal Commission, who distinctly expressed the opinion that capital raised for works of intercommunication might fairly be raised without the imposition of the sinking fund clause. Not only has the Royal Commission decided in this way, but a Special Committee of the House of Commons decided against the insertion of the sinking fund clause in this Bill, and an attempt to reopen the same question on the third reading of the Bill was negatived without a Division. The House of Commons itself has practically decided against the insertion of this Clause three times, and I hope your Lordships will have regard to that fact and accept the Amendment of the Government.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I will not go at length into the general question, but I should like to address my-

self straightly and frankly to the points raised—first, that the particular capital referred to in this Bill is not dividend-earning capital; and, secondly, that any contribution to the sinking fund that is paid in respect of such capital would come, not out of that particular capital, but out of other dividend-earning capital. I hold, and I think I shall gain your Lordships' assent, that in taking a mass of capital applied to a particular enterprise it is impossible to differentiate between the dividend-earning power of one sovereign and another sovereign. The fact of the matter is the whole of the capital is applied for the benefit of the particular enterprise, and that in a larger or smaller degree the whole of the capital earns interest. This is particularly the case with regard to the capital under this Bill, because it is not to be applied to any particular works. It is not even laid down that it shall be applied to works of inter-communication. It is laid down that it may be applied to any works whatever which may receive the sanction of the Local Government Board.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: For that purpose.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I contend, in the strongest possible manner, that there is no limitation whatever to the works which may be performed under this Bill, with the exception that they are not to be works for the purpose of obtaining water from new sources, and that the works are to receive the sanction of the Local Government Board. Under this Bill (and I challenge a denial) it is perfectly possible for the companies to make new reservoirs, new filter beds, and new service mains out of the capital authorised by its provisions if they only get the sanction of the Local Government Board. They can spend £5,000,000 or £10,000,000 during the next ten years on the various works to which I have alluded. I now come to the question whether this particular capital ought to be liable to a charge for the sinking fund or not. I contend that it should, because the new capital and the old capital must be added together in one lump. If the interest on capital at present issued amounts to 8 or 9 per cent. and the interest on the new capital amounts to only 3 per cent., the dividend on the capital as a whole is diminished.

Lord Tweedmouth.

The new capital must come into the reckoning in a perfectly fair and straightforward manner. I must say that the circumstances of this Bill are such as to create no little surprise. The noble Lord rather put it that the water companies were being hardly treated by the insertion of this clause. You have given to these water companies a monopoly over one of the greatest necessities to human life, and especially to human life in this great city; and if you give these companies a monopoly you require from them certain duties, and I will put it to noble Lords in this House whether they can honestly say that they consider these companies have rightly discharged their duties in the past. I quite admit that you may differentiate between the different companies, but it is impossible to say they have fulfilled their duty of supplying the people of London with water either in sufficient quantities or of sufficiently good quality. The water companies themselves admitted the desirability and the necessity of the inter-communication which is proposed in this Bill, and at the beginning of the session they introduced a Bill which would have gone before the Private Bills Committee and passed through Parliament in the ordinary course, and which, I have no doubt, would have contained the Sinking Fund Clause. The Government came forward and said this was a matter they would deal with themselves, and in framing the Bill they have violated the practice of Parliament for the last thirteen years in regard to the sinking fund clause, and have taken out of the hands of Parliament the power of saying what amount of capital should be issued and to what works it should be applied. That is not a fair way to deal with London or with this House, and I hope your Lordships will at any rate so far mitigate the harm which may be done by this Bill by rejecting the proposal of the noble Lord the Chancellor of the Duchy.

VISCOUNT HAMPDEN: My Lords, the noble Lord who presided over the Select Committee has marshalled together before your Lordships a number of authorities. He named the Government, the water companies, the County Council, and the City Corporation, and he then asked which of these authorities was the most deserving of consideration. He replied himself to this question by stating that the London County Council knew

more about the subject than any of the other authorities. I admire the courage of that argument, because, as a matter of fact, when the Committee gave their decision that the sinking fund clause should be put in, they had heard the counsel for the County Council, but had not heard the case for the water companies. I disagree with the statement of the noble Lord who has just spoken that the money raised under this Bill can be applied to other than works necessary for inter-communication. When he charges the water companies with not having fulfilled their trust, my answer to him is that the Lambeth Water Company, of which I am a shareholder and a director, have always fulfilled their duty to the public, and that they only come into this Bill because they think it is necessary to act on the invitation of Her Majesty's Government and take measures for insuring against such a state of things as occurred in East London a few years ago. I can quite understand the opposition of the County Council to the existence of the London water companies. This opposition has been so often expressed that really no new development could have taken one by surprise; but I should have thought the County Council would have come to the conclusion that it was almost time to stop spending the ratepayers' money on litigation and leave the issue to be decided by Her Majesty's Government and Parliament, now that the question is before a Royal Commission. I should have thought that they would have treated with equity and consideration the great interests they are attacking. The Royal Commission has reported that it would be undesirable that this sinking fund clause should be applied to expenditure on inter-communication. The Government have introduced a Bill without that clause, and a Special Committee in the other House have endorsed the action of the Government. Under those circumstances, I should say there was a considerable amount of authority demanding and justifying the exclusion of the sinking fund clause, and that when the matter came before a Committee of your Lordships' House, that Committee should have been very careful not to come to any decision without hearing both sides and every argument that could be addressed to them. I have the shorthand writer's notes here, and what happened was this: the noble

Lord the Chairman of the Committee was asked whether the Sinking Fund question could be treated as a matter to be discussed on the preamble stage or the clause stage, and it was pointed out to him that if it was treated on the clause stage the counsel for the water companies could be heard. The noble Chairman said the question should be treated on the clause stage, and the counsel for the water companies made no speech on the preamble stage. When the counsel for the London County Council had finished, the Committee deliberated, and then they gave their decision that the preamble was proved subject to the condition of the sinking fund clause being put in. I do not charge the noble lord with anything more than an error of judgment, and, indeed, he saw himself afterwards that an error of judgment had been made, because when his attention was called to the fact that the other side had not been heard, he said it would be best that they should treat the thing with an open mind. But that was impossible when fettered by a decision given in open court. What made it more unpleasant for us was that the noble Lord who has just spoken, who is an active member of the London County Council, was present in the room. He was perfectly within his right in being there, but he went further and instructed one member of the Committee as to the character of the sinking fund. I certainly think this was an imprudent act on his part. What would he have said if I, as a shareholder in a London water company, and a member of your Lordships' House, had been present in the committee room and given advice as to the sinking fund.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I absolutely gave no information whatever. It is true that I did give to one member of the Committee who was in doubt as to what the sinking fund clauses were a very short statement as to the way the fund worked.

VISCOUNT HAMPDEN: That is my point.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Does the noble Viscount impute to me a desire to influence the Committee unfairly?

A NOBLE LORD: You were certainly

not the proper person to describe the clause.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : I am sorry if I have offended in any way, but I assure the House that I did not express any opinion one way or the other. Anything I said might probably more likely have been taken as an argument against my own view than otherwise.

VISCOUNT HAMPDEN : I accept the noble Lord's explanation, but I am sure he took a course which was open to misconstruction. In conclusion, I would urge that the principle of the sinking fund is not applicable to the expenditure contemplated under this particular Bill, and which is incurred entirely as an insurance against the recurrence of certain emergencies which may perhaps never have to be encountered. To apply the sinking fund clause to this expenditure would be to inflict very great injustice on the shareholders of these companies.

* LORD DAVEY : I am not going to follow my noble friend in discussing the conduct of the London County Council in opposing this Bill and in seeking to have this clause inserted, nor am I going to follow my noble friend in his criticisms of the conduct of the Select Committee. I desire for a few minutes to recall to the House what is really the issue before us. As I understand, it is admitted on all sides, and it cannot be denied, that for a long number of years it has been the custom to insert a sinking fund clause into all Water Bills which come before Parliament seeking to raise further capital. Nor is it denied that it would be proper to insert it in this Bill, except for one circumstance. The noble Lord who moved the Amendment said this capital will not be dividend-bearing or profit-producing capital—that it is expenditure which will not increase the income-producing capacity of the undertaking, and will not result in any financial benefit to the shareholders. I venture to say, my Lords, that that is a most astounding fallacy. In the first place, I would point out the utter impossibility, when you are calculating the dividend which is paid by a company on its capital, to distinguish one part of its capital from another. You do not pay a dividend on one part of the capital, but on the whole, and for the purpose of ascertaining the dividend you

must take into consideration the whole expenditure. What is this expenditure for? It is for the purpose of improving the water supply of London, and enabling the water companies the better to serve their customers; and it is new to me to be told that because a shopkeeper, a tradesman, or a merchant provides greater facilities for the supply of a superior class of article and with greater permanence and regularity to his customers that then, the money he expended with this object is not to be treated as dividend-bearing expenditure. I should have thought it was the very essence of dividend-bearing expenditure, spent for the purpose of producing that which would in turn produce the income. This expenditure is in the nature of a mutual insurance by the companies of each other against a deficiency of supply, and it would be certainly strange if anyone were to say that money spent by a shipowner on premiums for insuring his vessel is not part of his dividend-bearing expenditure. If that is the only argument for striking out this clause, I venture to think it is an entire fallacy, and I hope the Amendment will not be accepted.

* LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD : The noble and learned Lord who has just spoken is under a total misapprehension as to the obligations which are cast upon the companies by this Bill. He has spoken of the impossibility of separating capital, and has said that you will be unable to discover whether money spent is earning capital or not; but the effect of this Bill is far different from such hypothesis. By this Bill, if, in the East of London, a water famine is anticipated, then the Local Government Board calls, not upon the East London Water Company, but upon all the companies to contribute a fund for the purpose of bringing water to East London to meet the needs of that district. The primary object of the measure is to enable relief to be given to the East London Water Company in the event of drought or other emergency. Such companies as the Southwark and Vauxhall Company may be called upon to pay something like £50,000 under the Bill, but may not benefit by it. How is the interest on that sum found?

* LORD DAVEY : If the Vauxhall Company's supply falls short, it will have the benefit of the Act.

* LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: Yes, but the Vauxhall Company never has run short, but certainly will have to pay if any company runs short, and why then should you anticipate that it will receive benefit? It never can, in any reasonably probable event, receive money from any customer in return for that £50,000, and inasmuch as it will not benefit it should not be subject to the sinking fund clause. Strange language has been used I think, and misapprehension shown by the noble Lord the Chairman of the Committee. He has spoken of this as a Water Bill and has referred to precedents. A Water Bill is a measure promoted and introduced by a water company asking for further powers in order that it may supply a greater area and thereby obtain larger returns. This Bill, on the other hand, is not promoted by a water company, but is a Bill introduced by the Government to compel the water companies to connect their mains and to come to the relief of a company whose supply is not adequate to meet the needs of the district. There is no precedent between former Bills of the water companies and this Bill. The noble Lord the Chairman of the Committee said the Committee asked themselves who were likely to know more about this question—the County Council and the Corporation of the City of London, or the Government and the water companies? The Committee listened to the counsel of the London County Council, but they did not hear the counsel on behalf of the Government. Why? Because they said “the Government know nothing about it, and the County Council know everything.” What an amount of trouble the adoption of this procedure would save my noble friend the Lord Chancellor! All he would have to do would be to ask himself which of the suitors who appeared before him would be more likely to tell the truth. He would say “A is likely to know more about this than B. I will decide in favour of A, which will save me the trouble of considering the arguments of B.” This was the method by which the Committee arrived at their decision. The Committee received a visit during one of its sittings from the noble Lord (Lord Tweedmouth), whose presence must have been of great moral assistance to the Chairman of the Committee.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I was in the

Committee room for half an hour or twenty minutes while counsel was making a speech for the County Council, and then I left the room.

* LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: The noble Lord gave the Chairman his moral support.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Not at all; that is a most unworthy suggestion.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: I saw present Lord Tweedmouth and the noble Lord opposite—[Earl COWPER.—“I was there to give evidence”—but I did not ask Lord Tweedmouth to give evidence.

* LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: At any rate my noble friend Lord Tweedmouth himself says that he explained to a member of the Committee, while he was acting as a member of the Committee, what was the effect of the sinking fund clause. My noble friend (Lord Tweedmouth) may take one view of what is the effect of the sinking fund clause, and another noble Lord may take another view. May I ask my noble friend, would it not have been better for him to have gone into the witness-box?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I should have gone into the witness-box if I had been asked.

* LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: Why should the explanation not have been given before the public rather than to one member of the Committee. I think the House ought to understand that whilst this matter was discussed the counsel for the London County Council very forcibly and at great length argued in favour of the insertion of the sinking fund clause, and that the counsel for the Water Companies was given to understand that he could reply to those arguments on the Clause stage. The opponents to the sinking fund clause, therefore, did not say one word in answer to the arguments of the County Council on the preamble, and it was to the astonishment of everybody that the Committee announced that the preamble was proved subject to the insertion of a sinking fund clause. Lord Tweedmouth said it was impossible to tell the dividend-earning capacity of one sovereign as compared with another, but under certain conditions it is easy to

tell. If you have a fund paid in for a specific purpose you ought not to apply it to another. You can well separate one fund from another, and a Government auditor would require this money to be kept separate. You would be able to determine then what each portion of the capital raised under different conditions is earning.

LORD RUSSELL OF KILLOWEN: My Lords, my reason for intervening is that I have received a communication from the chairman of the Surrey County Council, whose interests he apprehends may be affected by this Bill. I must say my noble and learned friend in charge of the Bill seemed in his observations to have lost the faith he originally professed in the merits of his proposal, and to have resorted to a contrivance to divert the judgment of the House from fair consideration of the merits by appeals to prejudice not conspicuous for good taste. My noble and learned friend suggested, in fact, that the Chairman of the Committee was in some way under the mesmeric influence of my noble friend Lord Tweedmouth, and that under the influence so exerted upon him he did not exercise that judicial faculty which his position required. The question, however, is not one to get excited about. A vital point has been put when it is shown that in water Bills for thirteen years the sinking fund clause has been invariably introduced. The onus, therefore, lies upon my noble and learned friend to justify the making of this Bill an exception on special grounds. The special grounds are that the expenditure which is involved or may be involved under the operation of this Bill does not come within the category of dividend-earning expenditure. I agree with my noble and learned friend (Lord Davey) that that is an entire misconception of the position and a complete fallacy. This is a Bill which enables the London water companies, which for this purpose are to be treated as one, with certain differentiations, to do what they have not legal power to do at present. I am not a water company director, nor even a water company shareholder. I approach the matter, therefore, entirely unbiassed, and I will take the illustration that has been given. The Vauxhall Company, for example, want no additional supply, but they may supply a company which wants water. Is the company to

be paid for that supply or not? What is the answer to that question? If they are to be paid, how can it be said that it is not part of an operation involving their earning power? The East London Company, on the other hand, want to increase their supply because they know that they cannot get their water rates unless they supply water. Accordingly, the Vauxhall Company supply them with water in order to satisfy their customers and to earn the water rate, and it is paid for such supply. Is not that increasing the earning power of the company?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of SALISBURY): My Lords, I think the noble and learned Lord has omitted a contingency in respect of which no dividend-earning power can avail—namely, that there is no use whatever of this machinery which is to be put up. This machinery has been put up, perhaps rather in alarm, in consequence of the very unusual drought which occurred two years ago, and as far as we can judge of the future by the past the same difficulty may never occur again. The machinery has been put up, because the East London Company failed then to do its duty; and therefore it is undoubtedly to that extent an addition to the resources of the East London Company and to the remedy of their defects. But it will neither cause the company nor any other companies to give more water or to receive more water; and therefore neither of the two sides which constitute the alternative which the noble Lord has conceived to be irrefragable can prevail, nor will the Vauxhall Company derive any dividend whatever from the money which you force them to spend. Of the East London Company alone can it be inferred—and only in an indirect fashion—that this money is in addition to their dividend-earning power. For the rest the money has been spent, not by the desire of the companies, not at their request, but by the obligation imposed upon them by the Government; and there is no pretence for saying that it adds to their dividend-earning power. There is, therefore, no reason or justice in adding to the exaction imposed upon them by requiring them to provide a sinking fund as well. That seems to me the whole state of the case. I agree with the noble and learned Lord that there

Lord James of Hereford.

have been sundry personal matters which have inevitably found their way into this Debate in consequence of the manner in which matters were conducted before the Committee. I do not think, however, that they have added to the clearness with which we can come to a decision. We heard of something being said to one of the judges secretly when the decision was in question. I confess it reminded me very much of the secret *dossier*; and I am almost inclined to regard the noble Lord opposite (Lord Tweedmouth) as part of the "General Staff" of the London County Council. I think, however, we may dismiss all these circumstances from our minds. What is meant by a water Bill is a Bill asking for power to raise capital to provide water; but this is not a water Bill, and therefore it is not touched by the 14 years' precedent cited.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I wish to say one word which bears on what was said by the noble Lord in charge of this Bill. I understood the noble Lord to say that this obligation was imposed on the companies, and that the companies had not taken any step in the matter. I have been informed that the companies themselves brought in a Bill containing to a very large extent the provisions of the measure before your lordships. The Government, however, took the Bill out of the hands of the companies, and this measure is the result. The companies themselves had, therefore, felt the want of a Bill, and they were ready to come to Parliament for powers. Why? Because the companies perfectly well knew the danger and insecurity of their position when these water famines occurred, and when they could not supply water, and they felt that they would add to the security of their position by means of a Bill of this kind. Is it not a fact that this provision is in the nature of insurance for all these companies, whether they have to supply water or not to another company? Does anybody believe that the companies would not add to the safety and security of their capital, and to the probability of their long being allowed to continue in their present position, by obtaining the powers given under this Bill? After all, I suppose we have to consider first the interests of the public, and I contend that the interests of the public loudly require that these companies, which undoubtedly have failed—

some to a very considerable extent—in supplying water, should be put in a position to adequately perform the duty which they originally undertook to perform when they were given this monopoly. To me it seems mere justice that when the time comes for these companies to be bought out at the expense of the London ratepayers the capital which has been raised under this Bill to enable them to properly perform their duty should not be treated as capital on which they are to receive compensation.

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 51; Not-contents, 20.

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Portman, V.	Tweedmouth, L.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: The next Amendment standing in my name I move because I think it is right that a limit

should be fixed as to the amount of capital to be issued under this Bill. I think the noble Lord will agree that the circumstances under which this Bill is brought in are exceptional and peculiar. Moreover, it is urged that it is only a temporary measure for a temporary purpose, and that it does not pretend to be a final solution of the water question, and is only intended to tide over a temporary difficulty until a final settlement is arrived at. Therefore, I hope your Lordships will accept this Amendment.

Amendment moved, at the end of Clause 2, to add—

"And provided that the total amount of such stock shall not exceed £500,000."—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I should be glad if I could meet the wishes of my noble friend, but the whole question is left to the discretion of the Local Government Board, who will see that no undue sum is expended. If my noble friend will put down his Amendment on the Report stage I will in the meantime consult my right honourable friend the President of the Local Government Board on this point, but I am afraid he will not give way.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I withdraw my Amendment now, and will put it down on the Report stage.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Other Amendments agreed to.

EARL COWPER: On the Second Reading of this Bill I pointed out that Subsection 2 of Section 1 went further than was at all necessary for the purpose of the Bill, and might have a very dangerous effect in enabling the companies to take water from places outside their present water limits. I also called attention to the immense harm which is being done owing to our springs and rivers being drained dry by these companies, and I expressed the desire which we all feel that this evil should not be increased. Lord James of Hereford received my remarks in the most courteous manner, assuring me that in his opinion there was no danger and that he did not interpret the clause in the way in which I had interpreted it.

Lord Tweedmouth.

The noble and learned Lord added that if there should be any doubt it would be removed, and stated that the promoters had no intention of allowing any more water to be extracted from Hertfordshire than was taken at the present time. When this Bill went into Committee a clause was agreed to by the promoters protecting Hertfordshire. Unfortunately Hertfordshire was mentioned by name, but there are other counties concerned. This clause was unexpectedly thrown out by the Committee at the instigation of the water companies. I cannot conceive that the water companies should have opposed this clause unless they took the same view as our legal adviser did—namely, that this Bill would give them extra powers. I think it is now generally admitted that there is a danger of what I have suggested happening if something is not done. We have never been heard in this matter. We have had no opportunity of saying anything either in the House of Commons or before a Committee of this House, and I am sure your Lordships will think with me that it would be most unjust that powers such as I have suggested should be conferred on the companies by a side wind against the intention of the promoters and without any argument whatever taking place on the subject. This seems to me so self-evident that I feel sure there can be no opposition to the new clause I now propose.

Moved, to insert the following new clause—

"Nothing in this Act shall authorise the construction by any metropolitan water company of any works for the purpose of utilising any supplies of water drawn from wells outside the water limits of the metropolitan water companies not now utilised under the power possessed by such companies."—(*Earl Cowper.*)

*EARL STANHOPE: My Lords, as Hertfordshire only has been alluded to, perhaps I may be allowed, on behalf of the County Council of Kent, to say how much importance we attach to this Amendment. We are somewhat alarmed that the water under our chalk hills may be extracted for the benefit of London, and I have every hope that my noble and learned friend the Chancellor of the Duchy will accept the noble Earl's Amendment.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: On the Second Reading I was authorised to

state that the Government did not wish by the Bill to give the companies any further powers of taking water, and I therefore accept the clause, which was not inserted by the Select Committee owing to some misunderstanding. The clause proposed by the noble Earl carries out exactly what the Government intended, and therefore, as I have said, I gladly enough accept it.

On Question, agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived: The Report of the Amendments to be received on Thursday next, and Standing Order No. 39 to be considered in order to its being dispensed with; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 92.)

SOLICITORS BILL [Lords].

Commons Amendments considered (according to order), and agreed to.

QUESTIONS.

SIERRA LEONE.

***LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY:** My Lords, I desire to call the attention of the House to the state of affairs in Sierra Leone or West Africa; and to ask what are the steps to restore order which the Secretary of State contemplates taking. With regard to the troubles in Sierra Leone, the first I heard of them was through the complaints of the head of a Manchester house doing a large trade with West Africa. I was told that he represented Mr. Chamberlain as destroying the trade of West Africa. The *Aborigines' Journal* of February last contains this extract from the letter of a leading Liverpool merchant:—

"What can we do to put a stop to the shooting and hanging of these natives of Sierra Leone? It is a terrible business all round. Not only there, but in the Oil Rivers and up the Niger the conversion of the negro by means of lead is going on merrily, and so it will do, I fear, whilst the military rulers have the power in their hands unchecked, and every incentive in the shape of pay, honour, and promotion to cause them to get up wars by which they may attract public notice. We want the whole system of government altering."

The same journal describes these troops as "recruited from escaped and liberated slaves of defeated chiefs," and from "war-boys" no longer able to gratify

their savage inclinations in their old ways. Allegations are also made against the men and their officers that they compel aborigines with kicks and blows to carry their goods without wages, and that they abduct their daughters and ravish their wives. Here we have a repetition or revival of Kirke's Lambs, and they are being brought into this country. On Monday, the 8th, Crewe Station was swarming with West African negro troops going South from Liverpool, and the noble Earl the Under Secretary of State's reason for absence from London last Sunday and the days before and after was that he was training troops. Were these West Africans among them? And are they to be named his or Mr. Chamberlain's Lambs? I hope he will have the Paschal lamb restored to their regimental flag, so as to inculcate greater suavity than they are now manifesting in Sierra Leone. In January, 1898, an arbitrary demand was made for a hut tax in the way of rent, and by a Protectorate ordinance a claim was made of absolute ownership by the Crown of all the land of the country—outside the colony—with which we had treaties recognising the independence of the people, and obtaining only trading opportunities. The remonstrance of the Aborigines Secretary of October 10th, 1898, was in vain, and on the 24th Mr. Chamberlain sent a curt answer, saying that steps would be taken during the dry season to restore order in all parts of the Protectorate. One can readily imagine Mr. Chamberlain, whilst dictating that answer, chuckling and murmuring:—

"A fico for the world and Quakers base,
I speak of Africa and golden joys."

The Aborigines Protection Society contains many Quakers, but the golden joys the Secretary of State thinks of are a full treasury from a usurped hut tax. The noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State, has, however, fully assimilated and adopted this spurious Imperialism of grasping new territories, whilst neglecting old, well-established and loyal colonies, for in his speech at Glasgow University on the 3rd May he again endeavoured to make the worse appear the better reasons for seizing on what he called unappropriated portions of the earth; and he sought for support in a recent speech of Lord Rosebery's, forgetting that it blamed extremes, such as the policy followed in Sierra Leone, and the disregard of Australian interests shown in the

duties on Australian wines. The noble Lord thinks he has found a material justification for a usurpation of sovereignty and Crown rights over land in the needs of manufacturers for new markets; let him read Mr. Frederick Greenwood's article in the *Nineteenth Century* of April on the neglect by manufacturers of the markets they already possess. The argument that a commercial nation must die if it had not trade on which to live did not justify the enslaving of negroes hitherto free. There is one point upon which the noble Earl and myself are quite agreed, and that is in objecting to tinkering the Prayer-book. If the Communion Service had not been set aside, the noble Earl would have been reminded that "cursed is he who removeth his neighbour's landmark"; a denunciation which applies as much to Governments as to individuals. The noble Earl went on to found what he called a moral justification for taking these new lands, in that

"Their aim was to bring to them the blessings of liberty, of law, of peace and of civilisation."

How can such an assertion be made in the face of the Sierra Leone Press, and the publications of the Aborigines Protection Society, which have not been contradicted or disproved by the Colonial Office. It seems to me to be a cause for regret that the noble Earl is endangering the consistency of his character by continual advocacy of the Colonial Office acts and policy. For instance, his speeches in the Laymen's House of Convocation show that he goes as far as my noble friend Lord Halifax in his opinion of the incompetency of the Judicial Committee in spiritual matters, and I agree with them on that point.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: I have never mentioned the subject.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I think my noble friend is travelling outside the borders of his Notice.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: In a short time the noble Earl will be placed in a dilemma, should the Government persist in refusing to the clergy the relief as to rates given to other owners of land. If the noble Earl elects to retain the Under-Secretaryship in that contingency, it is only fair that I should give him notice

Lord Stanley of Alderley.

that I shall contest with him the election for the chairmanship of the Church Defence Committee.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (EARL OF SELBORNE): My Lords, the noble Lord's question was, to ask what steps Her Majesty's Government were going to take to restore order in Sierra Leone. My answer to the noble Lord is that order is completely restored in Sierra Leone. If the noble Lord wished to have a general debate on the subject of the recent disturbances I would suggest that he should wait until the Blue Book is published. The noble Lord has made a reflection on the action of the officers and men in the service of Her Majesty in the colony. Under circumstances of great climatic difficulties, of complete isolation in many cases, and in dealing with absolutely savage tribes, on the whole the officers who go out from this country show marvellous patience, great tact, and great humanity; and I repudiate altogether the reflections which the noble Lord has passed on their conduct. As regards the bloodshed in Sierra Leone, no one has been executed who was not tried by a judge sent out from this country and convicted of actual cold-blooded murder. With regard to the allegations that the Crown had provoked disturbances by claiming all the land in Sierra Leone, there is not the slightest shadow of a foundation for any such statement.

House adjourned at a quarter to Seven of the clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 16th May 1890.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS.

(Standing Order 63 complied with.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz:—

IONIAN BANK BILL.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS. [Lords.]

(Standing Orders not previously inquired into complied with.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

BARTON-ON-SEA WATER BILL. [Lords.]

GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS AND WATER) BILL. [Lords.]

GLASGOW CORPORATION (TRAMWAYS, &c.) BILL. [Lords.]

LIVERPOOL OVERHEAD RAILWAY BILL. [Lords.]

MID-KENT GAS BILL. [Lords.]

OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL. [Lords.]

STOCKTON AND MIDDLESBROUGH WATER BILL. [Lords.]

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS. [Lords.]

(No Standing Orders not previously inquired into applicable.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders not previously inquired into are applicable, viz. :—

LONDON HOSPITAL BILL. [Lords.]

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY BILL.

(Queen's Consent signified.)

Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

BELFAST WATER BILL.

(Queen's Consent signified.)

Read the third time, and passed.

VOL. LXXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION BILL.

CORK CORPORATION (FINANCE) BILL.

DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS) BILL.

EAST LONDON WATER BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

MILTON CREEK CONSERVANCY BILL.

(Queen's Consent signified.)

Read the third time, and passed.

NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE AND FISH-GUARD RAILWAY BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

SURREY COMMERCIAL DOCKS BILL [Lords], AMENDMENT.

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

LEITH HARBOUR AND DOCKS BILL.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE STIPENDIARY JUSTICE BILL.

As Amended, considered; to be read the third time.

CITY AND BRIXTON RAILWAY BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 19) BILL.

To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Bournemouth (Public Purposes), Eastbourne, Hendon, and to the extension of the area of supply of the Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution (Limited), ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hanbury.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (POOR LAW) BILL.

To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the parishes of Devonport and Saint Mary, Newington, and to the Greenwich and Wolverhampton Unions, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Ritchie.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No 9) BILL.

To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Luddenden Foot, the Ludworth and Mellor, the Oakwell, and the Portslade and Southwick United Districts, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL.

To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bradford (Yorks.) Itchen, Kingston-upon-Hull, Ryde, and Shifnal (Rural), ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 11) BILL.

To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Croydon (Rural), Jarrow, Ramsgate (two), Ripon, and West Bromwich (two), ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No 3) BILL.

To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Drogheda, Londonderry (Rural), and Tobercurry (Rural), ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland and Mr. Solicitor-General for Ireland.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES) BILL.

To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Killarney, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland and Mr. Solicitor-General for Ireland.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 19) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Bournemouth (Public Purposes), Eastbourne, Hendon, and to the extension of the area of supply of the Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution (Limited)," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 203.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (POOR LAW) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the parishes of Devonport and Saint Mary, Newington, and to the Greenwich and Wolverhampton Unions," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 204.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 9) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Luddenden Foot, the Ludworth and Mellor, the Oakwell, and the Portslade and Southwick United Districts," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 205.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bradford (Yorks), Itchen, Kingston-upon-Hull, Ryde, and Shifnal (Rural)," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 206.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 11) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Croydon (Rural), Jarrow, Ramsgate (two), Ripon, and West Bromwich (two)," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 207.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Drogheda, Londonderry (Rural), and Tobercurry (Rural)," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 208.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES) BILL.

"To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland

relating to Killarney," presented, and read the first time : to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 209.]

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the Brooke's Park, Londonderry Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the Owens College, Manchester, Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

3. "That, in the case of the Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill, Petition for additional Provision, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to introduce their additional Provision, if the Committee on the Bill think fit."

4. "That, in the case of the West Metropolitan Railway Bill, Petition for additional Provision, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to introduce their additional Provision, if the Committee on the Bill think fit."

Resolutions agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time Tomorrow.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN (NEW RAILWAYS) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

BOOTLE CORPORATION BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 7).

MR. MOLLOY reported from the Committee on Group 7 of Railway Bills:

That, to meet the convenience of parties, they had adjourned till Thursday, at Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Huntingdon, against; to lie upon the Table.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petitions in favour, from Woking and Middlesbrough; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Melrose, Cowdenbeath, and Morebattle; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

Petition from St. Leonard, Shoreditch, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Kelty, Lumphinnans, Begg, Oakley, Blairhall, East Wemyss, Lassodie, Irvyn Gwyn, Bradford, Coaltown of Wemyss, Lochgelly, Raith, Townhill, Buckhaven, Cowdenbeath, and Lochore; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Forfar, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Manchester, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Petition from Forfar, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Stoke Gabriel, Hele, High Wycombe, Leeds, Babbicombe, Brixham, Stockport, and Sheerness-on-Sea; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN.

Petition from London, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

TEMPERANCE REFORM (THREEFOLD OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Auchterarder, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

POLICE (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Forty-first Annual Report of Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, being for the year ended 31st December 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, with Appendix, 1898-9 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (PRELIMINARY RETURN).

Copy presented, of Preliminary Return of the British Army for 1898, with Abstracts, &c. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (RULES).

Copy presented, of Rule made by the Irish Land Commission under the Land Purchase Acts, dated the 29th April 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PRISONS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Order in Council approving of a Rule made by the General Prisons Board for Ireland, dated the 5th May 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

COAL EXPORTS, &c.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st March 1899; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 198.]

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS.

Copy presented, of Sixteenth Report of the Comptroller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks, with Appendices, for the year 1898 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2259 to 2262 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (PARCEL POST WITH PORTUGAL, INCLUDING MADEIRA AND THE AZORES).

Copy presented, of Agreement for the Express Delivery of Parcels exchanged between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Portugal, including Madeira and the Azores [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CROWN'S NOMINEE ACCOUNT.

Abstract Account presented, of Receipts and Payments of the Treasury Solicitor, in the year ended 31st December 1898, in the Administration of Estates on behalf of the Crown, and Alphabetical List of Intestates' Estates in respect of which Letters of Administration were granted to the Treasury Solicitor as Crown's Nominee, and of other cases (partial Intestacies, &c.) in which Accounts were opened in the Books of the Treasury Solicitor in the same year in respect of moneys received by him as Crown's Nominee [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 192.]

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS (LONDON).

Further Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August 1894; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. [No. 200.]

POST OFFICE (TELEPHONE EXCHANGES).

Return ordered, "giving the names of all Telephone Exchanges which the Post Office has at any time opened in the United Kingdom, with the date of opening; the number of subscribers at opening; the date on which each Exchange had the largest number of subscribers, and their number; the date on which each Exchange now without subscribers became so; the number of subscribers on the 31st day of December 1896, 1897, and 1898 on Exchanges then open; the number of subscribers who have given notice to leave any Exchange; and the tariff, in the following form:—

QUESTIONS.

Name of Exchanges.	
Date of opening.	
Number of subscribers at opening of Exchange.	
Date on which each Exchange had the largest number of subscribers, and their number.	
Dates on which Exchanges now without subscribers became so.	
Number of subscribers on Exchanges open 31st day of December 1896.	
Number of subscribers on Exchanges open 31st day of December 1897.	
Number of subscribers on Exchanges open 31st day of December 1898.	
Number of subscribers who have given notice to leave any Exchange.	
Tariff.	

(in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 97, of Session 1898).—(*Mr. Pround.*)

GAS UNDERTAKINGS.

Return ordered, "relating to all authorised Gas Undertakings in the United Kingdom other than those of Local Authorities, for the year ended 31st day of December 1898 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper (No. 364, of Session 1898)."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

GAS UNDERTAKINGS (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Return ordered, "relating to all authorised Gas Undertaking in the United Kingdom belonging to Local Authorities, for the year ended the 25th day of March 1899 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 365, of Session 1898)."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

THE AUSTRALIAN STATION—TONGA.

Mr. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he has received a report from the Admiral in command of the Australian station in reference to a recent sudden visit of H.M.S. "Tauranga" to the native kingdom of Tonga; and, if so, whether he can state the object of the mission and the results of Captain Stuart's interviews with King George.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Perhaps I may be allowed to answer this question. The report of the captain of H.M.S. "Tauranga" has only just been received, and I shall be obliged if the hon. Member will postpone his question till after the holidays, to give time for its consideration.

VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if a reorganisation of the brigade system of the Volunteer force is in contemplation with a view to making the brigade units more efficient for mobilisation and easy to handle for peace training; and, in such case, if the Secretary of State will take care that brigades shall be left, as far as possible, to the charge of those who, on mobilisation, will be available for that purpose, and not devoted solely to the training as brigadiers of colonels in the Regular Service, and as staff officers of those serving temporarily at a dépôt.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): There is no impending change, but as Volunteer brigadiers resign their appointments will be filled by colonels commanding regimental districts. These officers will command the brigades on mobilisation.

EXAMINATION FOR MILITIA OFFICERS.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Militia officers who presented themselves at the last examination for entrance to the

Royal Military College, and who obtained more marks than some of those who went up at the same examination as military literary candidates, have been informed that they are not qualified from a literary point of view; whether he is aware that both classes of candidates had the same papers, and were marked according to the same standard; and if he will explain why the decision above referred to was arrived at.

MR. WYNDHAM: The competitive examination for Sandhurst and the qualifying examination for Militia candidates for commissions are two distinct examinations of different categories of candidates, although, for convenience, the same papers are generally, though not always, used for both.

FUSE MANUFACTURE.

CAPTAIN BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office what sum has been expended in the plant for the manufacture of fuses at Enfield; and if the small order that has been carried out there compares favourably with cost of manufacture at Woolwich.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): The amount expended on plant for the manufacture of fuse bodies at Enfield was £4,673. The cost of preparing fuses at Enfield compares not unfavourably with that at Woolwich.

CAPTAIN BOWLES: Does that mean that the fuses are manufactured more cheaply at Enfield than at Woolwich?

MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS: I have said the cost compares not unfavourably.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES—MR. DONALDSON.

CAPTAIN BOWLES: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if he will state what are the duties attached to the new office created for Mr. Donaldson; and in what respect do they differ from the duties he was called upon to perform as Assistant Director-General of Ordnance Factories.

Captain Norton.

MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS: Mr. Donaldson's present duties are laid down in the Memorandum showing the duties of the principal officers of the War Office recently presented to Parliament. His duties have always been those of Chief Mechanical Engineer; but, until the recent Order in Council, he also acted as the Deputy of the Director-General of Ordnance Factories.

CASE OF COLOUR-SERGEANT WOOLDRIDGE.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he can state the decision arrived at relative to the case of Colour-sergeant Wooldridge, 1st Battalion Oxfordshire Light Infantry, who was recently tried by court martial and sentenced to be reduced to the ranks.

MR. WYNDHAM: The proceedings of the court martial on Colour-sergeant Wooldridge have been reviewed by the Judge Advocate General. He has found nothing in them to object to, and the sentence therefore stands.

MADRAS PRESIDENCY—TROUBLES AT BANGANAPALLI.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the troubles which recently arose in the small Native State of Banganapalli, in the Madras Presidency, and to what is alleged to have been the harsh treatment by the Nawab of that State of a number of his subjects; and whether he will look into the matter, and consider whether some searching inquiry into the facts should be directed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): My attention has been called to the proceedings referred to in this question, and I have been in communication with the Government of Madras on the subject. I learn from them that the political agent at Banganapalli was specially instructed to watch the trial of rioters which took place after the recent disturbances, and that measures were taken to prevent any miscarriage of justice. I also learn that the Nawab has been constantly reminded by the Government of Madras of his obligations, and that they are endeavouring to induce him

to improve his administration. The right hon. Gentleman may rely on it that I shall continue to give my attention to the matter, and shall take any measures which may appear to me, after full consideration, to be advisable.

BOMBAY COLLEGE OF LAW:

SIR W. WEDDERBURN (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that a new College of Law, with a suitable staff of professors, under the presidency of the Hon. Mr. Justice Tyabji, was established in Bombay in 1897 by private enterprise, and that in January, 1898, this college was affiliated to the Bombay University; whether he will state for what reasons the Bombay Government refused its sanction to such affiliation when applied to by the University authorities; whether he is aware that since the founding of the University in 1857 such sanction has in no other case been refused; and whether he will explain how this refusal is in accordance with the declaration of Her Majesty's Government in 1884, upon the report of the Education Commission, that in higher education private effort should be increasingly and mainly relied on and systematically encouraged.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have no information as to the character of the private institution referred to in this question, or of its staff of professors. But I understand that the Government of Bombay, who have quite recently taken steps to improve the Government School of Law and to make it equal to all demands, considered that it was not advisable that the control of the higher legal education should be wholly or partially in private hands. They therefore, with the full concurrence of the Government of India, refused the affiliation which had been applied for. As regards the question of precedents, it is obvious that every application of this kind must be dealt with on its own merits. I see no reason to doubt the soundness of the decision arrived at in this case; nor does it appear to me to be inconsistent with the views of the Education Commissioners, who considered that the establishment of competing schools in one locality might involve "a clashing of interests and a waste of power."

SIR W. WEDDERBURN: May I ask

whether the noble Lord is aware that the Government contribute nothing to the support of the schools, but, on the contrary, make a profit of 8,000 rupees a year from the fees? Does he consider it desirable that a monopoly should be created in this way?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

COOPER'S HILL ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

MR. MACLEAN (Cardiff): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the existing president of the Engineering College at Cooper's Hill accepted his appointment three years ago on the express condition that he should also discharge the duties of a professor at that institution; whether he is aware that this condition, thus first introduced, caused other eligible candidates to withdraw, on the ground that both functions could not be efficiently discharged by the same individual; and whether, as the Secretary of State has now reverted to the former system, and invited applications for the post of professor, it is intended to reduce proportionately the president's emoluments now that he will be relieved of the professor's work.

LORD G. HAMILTON: It is true that the existing president of Cooper's Hill College was appointed on condition that he should act not only as president, but also as professor of constructive engineering. Whether this condition deterred other candidates from applying I am unable to say. The combination of duties had not been tried previously to Colonel Pennycuik's appointment; and, after about two years' experience, he represented to me that the arrangement was one which could not be satisfactorily worked. After very careful consideration of the matter in Council, I decided to relieve Colonel Pennycuik of his professorial duties without reducing his salary, which was the same that had been drawn by his predecessors, who took no part in the teaching of the college.

INDIAN SUGAR DUTIES.

SIR H. H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the despatch from the Government of India, No. 129, dated 5th May, 1898, was signed by all the members of the Viceroy's Council.

LORD G. HAMILTON: Yes, Sir; the despatch was signed by the Viceroy and by all the members of his Council.

MR. MACLEAN: Are these members of the Viceroy's Council the same who agreed with the Viceroy in reversing his predecessor's decision?

LORD G. HAMILTON: Yes, I believe they are. As the hon. Member is aware, when people get more accurate information on a subject they sometimes change their opinions.

INDIAN RAILWAY GAUGES.

SIR J. KITSON (York W.R., Colne Valley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the continued extension of the metre and other smaller gauges of railways in India in competition with the legitimate spheres of the standard gauge; and whether he will take steps towards defining the scope of the smaller gauges.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I am quite aware of the importance of defining the limits within which the metre gauge and other smaller gauges should be used. They are sanctioned, not in competition with the standard gauge, but either for feeder lines, as an improvement on ordinary roads, or for railway systems in districts such as Burma, where broad-gauge lines would be impracticable on account of their comparatively high cost.

WEST AFRICA—ARROW POISONS AND THEIR ANTIDOTES.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs). I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been drawn to the frequent use of poisoned arrows by the natives of West Africa; and whether any arrangements can or will be made for the scientific analysis of the poisons so employed, and of alleged native or other antidotes, in the Colonial Medical Institution whose functions he recently described.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): It is not proposed to make arrangements in the School of Tropical Medicine for the scientific analysis of arrow poisons or their antidotes, as such arrangements would entail expense which the school is at present hardly in a

position to meet. Only one case of the use of poisoned arrows in West Africa has been brought to my notice, and in that case an analysis of the poison and of the supposed antidote was made at Netley.

ANTICOSTI.

MR. HOGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has now received an official report from the Government of the Dominion of Canada in reference to recent proceedings in the island of Anticosti; if so, can he give a general indication of its purport, and does he contemplate any action in connection therewith.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have received such a report. The purport of it is that the island of Anticosti is private property, the title being derived from a grant by the King of France in 1680. The present proprietor, M. Menier, has taken proceedings for the eviction of certain persons who have been settled for a considerable period on the island, and the actions were at the date of the report (the 29th of March) pending in the Superior Court of the Province of Quebec. The settlers being poor, the Provincial Government of Quebec had retained counsel to act in their behalf, and had undertaken to bear the costs of their defence. I do not contemplate any action in the matter.

THE "TOURMALINE" CASE.

MR. HEDDERWICK: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to prosecute Major Spilsbury, who was recently acquitted at Gibraltar, under any other charge connected with or arising out of the expedition of the "Tourmaline" to Sus territory.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (SIR RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): I am not aware of any further proceedings being in contemplation; but I cannot give an undertaking.

SIR ALFRED MILNER.

MR. E. J. GRIFFITH (Anglesey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any communication or report from Sir Alfred Milner on the subject matter of the petition recently despatched for presentation to Her Majesty by British subjects

resident in the Transvaal; and if so, whether he will lay upon the Table such communication or report.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN was not in his place.

MR. E. J. GRIFFITH: I would ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is not usual for Ministers to remain in the House until questions have finished.

No answer was given.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

MR. ASCROFT (Oldham): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the complaints of British manufacturers in respect to the refusal of the British Commission to grant them suitable space at the forthcoming Paris Exhibition; whether he is aware that, notwithstanding the fact that Messrs. James Stott and Co., of Oldham, the manufacturers of the patent gas governor, have received the highest awards made at all the International Exhibitions during the last 20 years, their application for space has been refused; and whether he will consider the advisability of suggesting to the Commission that the large employers of labour in this country should have every facility given to exhibit the articles manufactured by them at the Exhibition.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): No, Sir, I have not had any such complaint before me. I have no doubt that the Royal Commissioners are doing the best they possibly can, having regard to the various demands which are made for space, to procure facilities for the exhibitors of this country.

CROWN SALMON FISHING RIGHTS IN SCOTLAND.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what are the grounds on which the Commissioners of Woods and Forests have resumed the practice of selling the Crown rights of salmon fishing in Scotland, which had been discontinued since 1888, owing to the strong expression of opinion in Parliament at that time.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Pres-

ton): In ordinary cases the Commissioners of Woods invariably decline to sell Crown rights of salmon fishing in Scotland. Sales are made only when there are very exceptional circumstances rendering that course desirable.

IMPERIAL PENNY POSTAGE.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is in a position to give the names of other colonies and dependencies of the British Crown which have, since the last notification, given in their adhesion to the plan for Imperial penny postage.

MR. HANBURY: Since the last public notice issued by the Post Office on this subject Jamaica, Mauritius, British North Borneo, and Labuan have given in their adhesion to the scheme. The penny letter rate will come into force both here and in those places on the 24th instant.

TELEPHONE WAYLEAVES.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that serious delay in granting wayleaves between Bradford and Scarborough and other towns has arisen; and, as the Post Office control the wayleaves for telephone communication along the railway lines, whether the Postmaster-General can facilitate the more expeditious granting of the wayleaves in question.

MR. HANBURY: No, Sir. The Postmaster-General is not aware of any delay in granting wayleaves between Bradford and Scarborough and other towns, or of any applications for such wayleaves to which the question could apply.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD ACCOUNTS.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will lay upon the Table of the House a copy of the prescribed form of audit of accounts of the School Board for London.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Certain Orders have been prescribed for the accounts of school boards generally, but there is no

special Order applicable to the School Board for London. The principal Order has already been published in the Annual Report of the Local Government Board for 1880-81, and it does not seem necessary that it should be published again. But I shall be happy to furnish my hon. friend with copies of the Orders referred to if he desires to have them.

SUTTON BARRACK SCHOOL.

SIR SAMUEL MONTAGU (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it is his intention to permit the managers of the Sutton Barrack School to parade the pauper children of that school for the purpose of attracting the alms of the persons going to the races on Derby Day; whether his attention has been drawn to the extensively signed memorial on the subject issued by the State Children's Aid Association; and whether, in view of the facts there set forth, he will interfere on behalf of the children.

MR. CHAPLIN: My attention has been called to the memorial from the State Children's Aid Association, which reached me to-day. But I see no reason for my interference in this matter, and I can only refer the hon. Baronet to the replies which I gave to similar questions last year and in 1897.

SOMERSET CHARITIES.

MR. STRACHEY (Somerset, S.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Thirsk, as representing the Charity Commissioners, whether he is aware that, after four years' negotiation and correspondence between the Charity Commissioners and the Rector and churchwardens and the Parish Council of Clutton, Somerset, in relation to the Chewstoke and other charities, the Parish Council has accepted a proposal of the Rector and churchwardens for the settlement of all questions in relation to these charities; whether the Commissioners have declined to sanction this unanimous arrangement on the ground that they do not consider that the Chewstoke charity should be made entirely non-ecclesiastical; and whether, seeing that the churchwardens have to pay off a debt to the Perry and Adams charity of £293 out of their ecclesiastical charities, the Commissioners will sanction the use of a part of the Chewstoke charity for that purpose.

Mr. Chaplin.

THE PARLIAMENTARY CHARITY COMMISSIONER (MR. GRANT LAWSON, York N.R., Thirsk): The Parish Council and the new Rector of Clutton have proposed that a debt due from the ecclesiastical charities of the parish to the educational charities of Perry and Adams should be cancelled, and that, by way of exchange, the Chewstoke charity, which is primarily a Church charity, should be entirely diverted to non-ecclesiastical purposes. The Commissioners cannot assent to this arrangement, but propose that the debt should be paid out of the capital of the Clutton Church Lands charity, and the Chewstoke charity apportioned between ecclesiastical and non-ecclesiastical purposes. The Chewstoke charity has no capital out of which the debt could be paid.

GUN LICENCE PROSECUTION AT WICK.

MR. HEDDERWICK: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been drawn to the case of James Sutherland, of Wick, who was recently prosecuted for using a gun without having a gun licence, the said gun being a toy gun used for shooting little darts at a mark in a private house by means of a spring mechanism; and whether such a prosecution was undertaken with the sanction of the Government; if not, whether he will cause an inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the case.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (SIR M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): I have inquired into this case. I find that the gun used was one of a class advertised to drive a metal dart through three-eighths of an inch of pine at a distance of 35 feet, and that James Sutherland was carrying on a public shooting gallery in an unoccupied shop with this instrument. I see no occasion for my interference.

RHODESIA.—IMPERIAL ASSISTANCE TO RAILWAYS.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hants, New Forest): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received proposals from Mr. Rhodes in regard to the extension of the railway northwards through Rhodesia in return for a guarantee of the interest at three per cent. on the existing £2,000,000 debentures of the Bechuanaland Railway; whether he is

aware that Mr. Rhodes has offered as security the existing net revenue of the railway, amounting to over £100,000 a year, the guarantee of the Chartered Company, and to deposit £300,000 in Consols to meet any possible deficit; whether he is aware that under an existing agreement £20,000 a year has to be paid by the Imperial Treasury for another eight or nine years, and £10,000 a year also by the Chartered Company to the railway company; whether Mr. Rhodes did offer to relinquish this £20,000 a year from the Treasury in case of a guarantee being given; whether, therefore, the ultimate new risk to the Treasury could not have exceeded £30,000 a year as against the securities offered; and whether it was upon financial or upon political grounds that he refused assistance to this railway through Imperial territory.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I hardly understand why the hon. Member should ask me this question, because I observe that he recently attended a meeting of shareholders of the Bechuanaland Railway at which the proposal of Mr. Rhodes and the reply of her Majesty's Government were discussed. It will be found, as well as our reasons for declining it, in the papers which will soon be issued by the Colonial Office. But I may say that the question does not accurately represent it. Mr. Rhodes's letter did not include an offer to relinquish the £20,000 a year, which for eight or nine years more will be payable by this country; and we were asked to incur a liability of £60,000 a year practically for 73 years. Nor do I think the net revenue of the railway could properly be put at £100,000 a year. Such an estimate would include the receipts of the first few months, which were entirely abnormal.

THE WINE DUTIES.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer by what amount the estimated Budget surplus of £230,000 will be reduced by the concession of extra duty he was so good as to give the foreign and colonial producer of cheap wines; and how it compares with the £17,850 which would have been lost by remitting the whole of the extra duty in respect of wine produced in and imported from British colonies and possessions.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The net loss from the concessions I made with regard to the duty on light wines in cask and bottle, after allowing for a gain from spirits in bottle, will probably be about £70,000. But it does not at all compare with my hon. friend's figure of £17,850; for if the colonies had been exempted from the increased duties, much more than that might have been lost by Colonial wines at the lower rate of duty taking the place of foreign wines which would have been subjected to higher duties.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Would not such a process have largely promoted trade between the colonies and the Mother Country?

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: Yes, but it would not have promoted my revenue.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: Has not the right hon Gentleman already lost by the change from one system to the other?

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: No, Sir, I have not.

THE BURIAL LAWS.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can now name a time for the introduction of the Bill for the Amendment of the Burial Laws, which he has stated has been prepared.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lincs., Blackpool): I fear that in the present state of public business I can make no definite promise with regard to the introduction of this Bill.

SCARLATINA AT BUXTON.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hants, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that on the occasion of an outbreak of scarlatina at Buxton the milk from certain farms had been prohibited from entering the council district, and that the council prohibited the sale of the milk without any evidence of its having produced the disease; and whether this prohibition is based on any statutory power.

MR. CHAPLIN: I have communicated with the Buxton Urban District Council, and I am informed that in consequence of an outbreak of scarlatina the district council prohibited the milk from three farms outside the district from being supplied within the district. The orders appear to have been made under Section 4 of the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, on the Report of the Medical Officer of Health that on an inspection of the farms, and, in the company of a veterinary surgeon, of the animals therein, he was of opinion that infectious disease was caused by the consumption of the milk supplied from the farms.

PRISON OFFICIALS.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a new scale of fines on subordinate officers in prisons has been issued under date 1st April, 1899, by which the maximum fines have been increased from 3s. to 5s. for such offences as carelessness, slovenliness, unpunctuality, using bad language, leaving a cell door unlocked, and conduct unbecoming a prison officer; and whether the regulation that each officer should be made acquainted with this scale is strictly enforced in all prisons.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The maximum fine is fixed by No. 140 of the new Prison Rules, a draft of which was laid before the House at the beginning of the session. The Standing Order dated 1st April directs as follows—

“Each officer will be made acquainted with this scale, and a copy of it will be placed in some position in which any officer can refer to it.”

MR. LOUGH: I beg further to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the number of hours of duty per week, including one evening duty, done by subordinate officers in London prisons is 78 to 94, and when two evening duties fall in the same week 92 to 106; and whether, when an officer goes on for the evening, he is obliged to be on duty for 36 hours consecutively; if so, whether anything can be done to reduce these hours of work.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The hours of duty of a subordinate officer in all local prisons are, on the average, about

62 hours a week, including evening duty, and whether on evening duty once or twice a week. He is never employed continuously on active duty for more than about 10 hours a day, but he takes his turn of sleeping in the prison, and is there normally on duty, or available for duty, for 36 hours consecutively, though he is out of the prison during nearly six hours of that time for meals and recreation.

MR. LOUGH: Does not the right hon. Gentleman think that 36 hours' consecutive duty, even if sleep is allowed, is excessive?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. That is a matter of argument.

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS IN SCOTLAND.

SIR WILLIAM PRIESTLEY (Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, in cases in which post-mortem examinations are made by order of the Procurator Fiscal, medical men who have had charge of a patient prior to death are allowed to be present at the examination, or whether the practice throughout Scotland in regard to granting or refusing permission is not uniform; whether persons suspected of having caused the death by criminal or other means are granted facilities for being medically represented at the examination; whether intimation is given to interested persons in time to allow their making application for representation to the right quarter; and if he will state what is the right quarter where such application should be made.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. G. MURRAY, Buteshire): No person except the medical men instructed to conduct the autopsy is allowed to be present, except with the consent of Crown counsel, or on the order of the sheriff. Crown counsel may, in their discretion, sanction the presence of a medical man who has attended the case or in the interests of the accused, but this is done on condition that he is to be present merely as an onlooker, and is not to interfere in any way with the Crown examination. No formal intimation is given that an autopsy is to be held, but in all cases where any person is in custody on suspicion of causing death an autopsy is made as a matter of course, so that an accused person, or his advisers,

cannot be in doubt as to the necessity of making immediate application for permission to send a medical man to witness the autopsy if they so desire it. The quarter to which application should be made is the Procurator-Fiscal, whose duty it is in all cases of urgency to communicate by telegraph with the Crown Agent for the instructions of Crown counsel. If an independent post-mortem examination is desired, it can be made after the Crown examination.

THE SCOTTISH ARMS.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate what is the difficulty in embossing the Scottish Royal Coat-of-Arms on Scottish Papers printed in England, in view of the fact that, after due consideration last Session, it was found possible, as far as regards the Reports of the Scottish Education Department, to emboss the Scottish Arms on them instead of the English, although printed in England, and whether the same consideration can be extended to other Parliamentary Papers referring to purely Scottish departments, such as the recent Scottish Minute regarding the Office of the Register of Sasines, Edinburgh; and whether steps could be taken in future so that as many as possible of the Scottish Papers and Minutes should be prepared in Scotland.

MR. A. G. MURRAY: The Secretary for Scotland will arrange with the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office to carry out, as far as possible, the suggestion of the hon. Member.

ENGLISH AND SCOTCH EDUCATION GRANTS.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, will he explain why, under the Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, and Elementary Education Act, 1897, England is to receive on this year's Estimates a grant of £622,000 for Voluntary schools, and of £170,000 additional for necessitous Board schools, with a further sum of £60,000 as the result of the repeal of the 17s. 6d. limit, or a total of £852,000, as against only £12,600 for Voluntary schools in Scotland, £24,000 additional for necessitous Board schools, and £5,000 to keep up the Scotch capitation fee grant to 12s. per head, or a total of £41,600 borne on the Imperial Estimates for the current year in respect of the

corresponding legislation for Scotland; whether the amount thus actually payable to England has greatly exceeded the amount estimated in 1897, whilst the amount payable to Scotland has turned out to be greatly less than that estimated (£41,600 in place of £66,000); and, whether the Government will reconsider the grant which was made to Scotland under the legislation of 1897.

MR. A. G. MURRAY: As I have already stated, it is extremely difficult to deal with the matter involved in the question of the hon. Member by way of question and answer in the House. I shall be prepared to deal with it more fully in the discussion on the Estimates, but, meanwhile, I am to state that the Government is not prepared at present to re-open the question of the proportion between the grants to England and Scotland in connection with the legislation of 1897.

LOCAL VETO IN SCOTLAND.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that the demand for Scottish legislation in accordance with Scottish opinion is met by the declaration of the Government of a desire on its part to comply with that opinion when it is expressed with sufficient clearness, and seeing that Scottish opinion in favour of a measure of temperance reform was proved by a vote in favour of the Local Veto (Scotland) Bill of 40 to 15, the Government will consider the propriety of introducing temperance legislation for Scotland at an early date.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I do not know what the hon. Member refers to in the first part of the question, the whole of which appears to be of an argumentative character. But I certainly cannot promise legislation this session on the subject to which he specially refers.

MR. PIRIE: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that the demand for temperance reform in Scotland has been made in the same form for a quarter of a century?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot say.

MR. PIRIE: But it is a fact.

PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE
(SCOTLAND) BILL.

MR. THORNTON (Peebles and Selkirk): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, looking to the anxiety of the people in Scotland for the passing into law of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill, he can give any assurance that it will be taken up and pushed through after the Whitsuntide recess.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have every hope and expectation that the Bill will be passed before the end of the session.

PROCLAIMED MEETING AT BREAFFY,
Co. MAYO.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, South): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with regard to the fact that a public meeting announced to be held on Sunday last, at Breaffy, county Mayo, to advocate the programme of the United Irish League and the manifestation of a public protest against the continued imprisonment of the widow Brennan, was proclaimed and suppressed, will he state on what grounds, if any, such exercise of the right of public meeting was by force taken away from the people of that locality.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The meeting referred to was prohibited because there were strong grounds for apprehending that it was convened for the purpose of advocating the boycotting of certain persons who, in the exercise of their legal rights, had become tenants of grass lands in the district, and of intimidating and unlawfully preventing other persons from exercising the same rights by becoming tenants of such lands, and that intimidation would follow. The avowed object of the meeting so far as disclosed by the placards convening it, was "to denounce land-grabbing and other such practices detrimental to the interests of the people." If this is an accurate description of the programme of the United Irish League, it is so far correct to say that the meeting was announced to advocate that programme, although, no doubt, particular individuals were aimed at. There was no mention in the placard of the case of Mrs. Brennan, who was committed to prison for contempt of Court on an order of the Vice-Chancellor.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): On what ground was it anticipated that objectionable acts would be committed?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I cannot answer in detail, but before the meeting one of the individuals concerned was referred to in a newspaper, published in the district, as one whom the meeting was to be held to denounce.

THE LAKES OF KILLARNEY.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, South): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Muckcross estate, on which the Lakes of Killarney are situate, is now for sale; and if he will take steps to secure this property for the people of Ireland.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I understand that the estate referred to is for sale by private treaty. I do not propose to take the steps suggested in the second paragraph of the question.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Cannot a slice of the 100 millions due to Ireland be applied for the purpose, and is there not a still undiscovered remnant of the Irish Church Fund?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. LOUGH: Is there no fund for the preservation of national and historic monuments which could be resorted to?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The property in question cannot be described as a national or historic monument.

IRISH PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will request the Government to apply the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill now before Parliament to Ireland this session?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I have received no communications on this subject from hon. Members representing Irish Constituencies, and, as at present advised, I am of opinion it would be better to deal with the matter of Private Bill Procedure for Ireland by means of a separate Bill.

MR. DALY: Will it be this session?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: No, Sir.

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION;
SPOILT VOTING PAPERS.

MR. ARTHUR O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, at the late election of a county councillor for the Ballyconnell division of county Cavan, there were 60 voting papers (all in favour of one candidate) spoilt by reason of the writing a name on the back of each, the writing in every case being in the same hand; and whether, without regard to the plea that an election petition is available, he will inquire how at one booth, and in respect of only one candidate, so many votes were invalidated by the same individual.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: A complaint of the nature mentioned in the first paragraph was made to the Local Government Board by the defeated candidate at the election of a district councillor for the Bawnboy Division of the County Cavan, and was subsequently withdrawn by him. The Board have no information that a similar occurrence took place in connection with the election of a county councillor in Cavan. With regard to the second paragraph, the Board have no power to hold an inquiry as suggested, as the Returning Officer, under the provisions of the Ballot Act, adapted by the County and Rural District Councillors Elections Order, is prohibited from allowing any person to inspect any ballot papers in his custody except by order of a Court having jurisdiction in the matter, or of any tribunal in which the election is questioned.

FAIR RENTS AT CARRICKMACROSS.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in February last there were in the unions of Carrickmacross and Castleblaney about 300 applicants to have fair rents fixed in the Land Courts, and that some of these applicants had entered in 1897; whether he can state what steps he intends to take to have cases referred to heard and fair rents fixed; and if he can state the cause of the delay.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am informed by the Land Commissioners that the hear-

ing of a list containing 299 fair rent applications from the unions of Carrickmacross and Castleblaney—a number of which had been entered in 1897—was commenced in February last, but that all the cases on that list have not yet been heard, as the arrangements for the hearing of the latter portion of it had to be altered owing to the illness of the Lay Assistant Commissioner before whom the cases were listed. It is expected that the hearing of all the cases on the list referred to will be completed by an early date, and the decisions will then be announced on the earliest possible opportunity.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I wish to supplement the answer I gave yesterday as to the proposed course of business. On Friday I propose to take the Customs and Inland Revenue Vote in Committee of Supply, and Class 7, Votes for temporary commissions and for miscellaneous expenses, and in Class 2 Vote 17 and the following Votes. On Thursday, June 1, the first Government night after the House reassembles after the holidays, I propose to take the remaining Revenue Votes, including the Post Office, and to put down Class 6, non-effective and charitable services, and I have chosen these because I hope I may consider them non-controversial. On June 2 I shall ask the Committee to take the Local Government Board Vote and after that Vote 11 and remaining Votes. It might be convenient to Members to have a discussion of the Foreign Office Vote at no very distant date, and unless sufficient reason is shown against it, I shall ask the Committee to take that Vote on June 9, and I trust that will relieve hon. gentlemen from the necessity of raising Foreign Office questions on that rather inconvenient opportunity supplied by the motion for adjournment on Friday.

SIR H. H. FOWLER: Is it to be understood that it is the intention to actually take the Foreign Office Vote on June 2? The House has always been unwilling to part with control of that Vote until late in the session, for the passing of the Vote precludes discussion on foreign affairs.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think that earlier in the session the right hon. Gentleman reproached me for allowing Votes to go over from day to day, and I agree with him that it is generally an inconvenient practice; but perhaps an exception should be made with the Foreign Office Vote, which stands in a rather special position. I will engage either not to ask the Committee to come to a decision on the Vote on June 9, or I will keep the Report over so as to allow the opportunity for dealing with Foreign Office subjects, should the House so desire, before the end of the session.

MR. DILLON: I suppose I may take it that no Irish Votes will be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In the programme I have sketched there is no intention to take Irish Votes.

SIR W. LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): At what period of the session does the right hon. Gentleman propose to bring on the Vote for Lord Kitchener?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it will be long after the Whitsuntide holidays, certainly not before. It might be convenient for me to make a statement on Friday, and I shall be prepared to do so.

MR. LAMBERT (Devon, South Molton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can give any date when the Agricultural Holdings Bill will be introduced.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, sir; I cannot mention any date.

METROPOLIS MANAGEMENT ACTS AMENDMENT (BYE-LAWS) BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday 31st May, and to be printed (Bill 210).

FIRE BRIGADES BILL.

Major Bowles, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Jesse Collings, Mr. Duncombe, Sir George Fardell, Mr. Heath, Mr. Howell, Mr. Malcolm, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Pym, Mr. Harold Reckitt, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Alfred Thomas and Major Wyndham-Quin nominated Mem-

bers of the Select Committee on Fire Brigade Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—
(*Sir William Walrond.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

VALE OF GLAMORGAN RAILWAY BILL.

Without Amendment.

BURLEY-IN-WHARFEDALE URBAN DISTRICT WATER BILL.

NUNEATON AND CHILVERS COTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL WATER BILL.

WOODHOUSE AND CONISBROUGH RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL.

With Amendments.

Amendments to—

SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) BILL [Lords.]

With an Amendment.

WALLASEY TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENTS BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment—

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the establishment of a Board of Education for England and Wales, and for matters connected therewith." [Board of Education Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Wick and Pulteney Harbour Trustees to construct additional works; to amend the Pulteney Harbour Act, 1879, and The Wick and Pulteney Harbours Order, 1883; to confer further powers upon the Trustees; and for other purposes." [Wick and Pulteney Harbours Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the St. Neot's Water Company to extend their limits of supply; and for other purposes." [St. Neot's Water Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Corporation of Bury to con-

struct additional waterworks; and for other purposes." [Bury Corporation Water Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make further provision with reference to the employment of pilots in the port of Liverpool; and for other purposes." [Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Pilotage) Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board to create redeemable stock, and to enable the Board to raise money temporarily by bills of exchange or promissory notes; and for other purposes." [Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Finance) Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for supplying with water the parish of Church Stretton, in the county of Salop." [Church Stretton Water Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend and amend The Humber Conservancy Acts, 1852 to 1876, and to confer further powers on the Humber Conservancy Commissioners; and for other purposes." [Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords].

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the British Electric Traction Company (Limited) to construct tramroads in the county of Sussex; and for other purposes." [Bexhill and St. Leonard's Tramroads Bill [Lords].

WICK AND PULTENEY HARBOURS
BILL [Lords].

ST. NEOT'S WATER BILL [Lords].

BURY CORPORATION WATER BILL
[Lords].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD
(PILOTAGE) BILL [Lords].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD
(FINANCE) BILL [Lords].

CHURCH STRETTON WATER BILL
[Lords].

HUMBER CONSERVANCY BILL [Lords].

BEXHILL AND ST. LEONARD'S TRAM-
ROADS BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bill.

VOL. LXXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL. Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 14 :—

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) said the Amendment he proposed was one about which there was not much to be said. It should be remembered that this Committee of the Privy Council was an entirely new body, quite unknown to this House, as far as London was concerned; and no very great amount of confidence had been shown in it by the London constituencies, for Members on both sides of the House had presented petitions against the selection of that body. Therefore it was all the more necessary that their decisions should be laid before Parliament, and that Committee ought not to be entrusted with such important legislative powers. He very much doubted whether the Committee had thoroughly followed the distinction between schemes and Orders. He had noticed in a very important organ of public opinion a defence of the provisions of the Bill, which explained that the second sub-section of this clause enacted that, where a local inquiry was held, it would have the effect of bringing the proposal of the Committee of the Privy Council before the House. That, he was prepared to say, was not the case at all. The Amendment he proposed was one which explained itself, and its acceptance would not change the framework of this Bill, and yet it would make so much difference that, taken with the Amendments already made, it would turn them from opponents to supporters of this Bill. The worst point now left in the Bill was the serious changes which were to be made by this unknown Committee, which were not to be brought before Parliament. He wished to point out to the Leader of the House that he had drawn his Amendment in accordance with precedent, so as to avoid any constitutional difficulty, for the words he proposed had been taken from the Board of Agriculture Act, 1889, and they would be found in the fourth section. He could not help thinking that many Members on both sides of the House would share the views which he had expressed upon this matter, for the Amendment he was proposing was the one thing needed to restore this Bill to a

form which would enable them on his side of the House to become supporters of the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 7, at end, to insert, 'before any Order in Council is made under this Act, the draft thereof shall be laid before each House of Parliament for not less than 30 days on which that House is sitting, and if either of those Houses before the expiration of 30 those days presents an address to Her Majesty against the draft, or any part thereof, no further proceedings shall be taken thereon, without prejudice to the making of any new draft Order.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): As far as the abstract merits of this Amendment are concerned, I confess that I cannot see that it would be any great improvement in this Bill, for the House is not a tribunal which is well qualified to deal with questions of boundaries—and it never has been a good body to deal with boundaries. It is especially difficult for this House to deal with the boundaries contained in a London Bill, because they cannot be considered merely with reference to the borough itself. There is another objection, although, perhaps, it is not a very serious one, and that is that a month will be required after the Order is framed before statutory effect can be given to it; and it would be prepared so late next session that it could not lie on the Table for 30 days, and there might be some difficulty in doing what the House is extremely anxious to do—namely, to bring the Act into working order by 1st of November 1900. I confess that I should prefer leaving the Bill as it is, for it follows the analogy of previous legislation, and not bring this question of boundaries in any way before the House. At the same time, if there is any strong and earnest feeling in favour of the proposed court of review in case of any erroneous or inexpedient decision on the part of the Commissioners, if the Committee are really anxious that there should be an appeal to this House against the decision of the Commissioners, I should not offer any strenuous opposition to the proposal on behalf of the Government.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he was very glad to

Sir Charles Dilke.

hear the conciliatory tone of the right hon. Gentleman's remarks, for they were quite in accord with the spirit in which he had conducted this Bill from the commencement. He was bound to say that, in their effort to render these borough councils more efficient, the First Lord of the Treasury had met them very fairly. He agreed with his right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean that this part of the Bill was one which was looked upon with great suspicion, for the clause proposed to place these areas in the hands of an unknown body, in whom the districts concerned had no confidence. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman was ready to accept the proposal to bring these matters when decided under the purview of the House. They attached very great importance to the Amendment, and he did not think that the arguments of the right hon. Gentleman had much weight. Under the circumstances, he was very glad to hear what fell from the right hon. Gentleman, because the course he had taken would facilitate the progress of the Bill through the House, and would give greater confidence in the measure when it became law.

MR. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton), echoed the sentiments of his hon. friend in reference to the spirit in which the right hon. Gentleman had met them. He had no doubt that in many cases if it was felt that there was a court of revision in the House, objections would not be taken that might otherwise have been taken. Knowing as he did the views of some of the local authorities, he might say that if this Amendment was accepted their objections would almost vanish. The object of the Amendment was to give confidence to those outside the House, and he believed it would have a tendency to shorten the procedure when the Bill became an Act. They all desired that this Bill should come into operation at an early date, and he thought this object would be facilitated by the adoption of the proposal of his right hon. friend below the gangway, which would make the Bill more acceptable than anything else which the right hon. Gentleman could do. All through there had been an absence of party feeling, although there had been a very strong London feeling exhibited, which had been met very reasonably by the attitude of the right hon. Gentleman.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.), as the representative of a very large parish which he said was to be thrown into the melting pot under this clause, thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the generous manner in which he had met their wishes, and he was quite sure the effect in the districts which were to be amalgamated would be that the suspicion which had been aroused in the minds of many of the inhabitants would, to a large extent, vanish, if they knew that this House was to be the final court of appeal.

Question put and agreed to.

Words added.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said that so far as he understood the Municipal Corporations Act and the procedure which was provided by it there was no provision that the Commissioners before they submitted their scheme should hold a local inquiry, and the object of this Amendment was to secure local inquiries by the Commissioners before they submitted their proposals to the Privy Council. He thought it was very desirable that the views of the local people should be made known to the Commissioners before any scheme whatever was submitted to the Privy Council. He was aware that the Municipal Corporations Act provided for representations to be made by the local authorities when a draft had been settled by the Privy Council, but there was no provision for a local inquiry in the first instance.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 10, at end to insert, '(3) The Commissioners, before preparing any Order or scheme under section one of this Act or any other Order or scheme for carrying this Act into effect when the subject matter is one to which a local inquiry is applicable, shall cause to be made a local inquiry, of which due public notice shall be given, and at which any vestry, district board, or other local authority affected thereby shall be permitted to tender evidence and make representations which the Commissioners shall consider.'"—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I entirely concur with the object which the hon. Gentleman has in view in proposing this Amendment, but I think it is met by the conditional and recognised procedure of

the Privy Council, which gives the very fullest opportunity to every local authority or local institution by either Order or scheme to make its views heard. As I understand it, the procedure is, in the first place, that an Assistant Commissioner is sent down to the locality, who is bound to hear all the interested persons, and after he has heard them he lays their views before the Head Commissioners, who thereupon frame their provisional scheme, which is itself again publicly submitted to all the authorities, and every opportunity is given for them to make such representations as they please before the Head Commissioners. I believe there will also be a subsequent opportunity for interested persons to be heard before the Privy Council. I do not think that this Amendment is necessary; indeed, it may be said, in a sense, to weaken the procedure already in force, and I think it is hardly necessary to press the matter further.

MR. STUART asked whether the same procedure as to inquiry locally referred to an Order as well as to a scheme. Of course there was a considerable difference between an Order and a scheme, and he took it that his hon. friend desired to see that the local inquiry should apply to both cases.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I will undertake that there shall be a full local inquiry in each case, and full opportunity shall be given to the local authorities to be heard.

MR. PICKERSGILL said that, under the circumstances, he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) contended that the expenses incurred by the Committee under this Act should not be paid out of the county fund at the disposal of the London County Council, and he accordingly moved to omit Sub-section 3.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 11, to leave out Sub-section (3)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed—

"That Sub-section (3) stand part of the Clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think this Amendment is quite an unreasonable one, for there is no reason why the taxpayers at large should pay for the work involved in these schemes and Orders. We are only by this proposal following the precedent of the Local Government Act, 1888.

MR. PICKERSGILL said he desired to say a word in support of the object which his hon. friend had in view. So far as precedent was concerned, it was on the side of the Amendment, for in 1887, then the Boundaries Commission was appointed, it was provided that the expenses should be paid by money provided by Parliament, and London had, of course, to pay its share of the cost. Those were surveys and inquiries precisely of the same character as those for which the London County Council was now asked to pay. He certainly thought the cost should fall not upon the County Council, but upon the national exchequer.

MR. LOUGH contended that the point had not been adequately dealt with by the Government, and he considered the matter was one of great importance. The London ratepayers were a long-suffering class, and he hoped the Government would reconsider the matter.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) contended that as this was a matter which concerned London only, it was only right

that the cost should be borne in the manner provided by the Bill.

MR. PICKERSGILL pointed out that he relied upon the Act of 1887, which applied to the boundaries, and was very much nearer the present case.

MR. STUART said that so far as the clause threw the expense upon the London County Council instead of the individual boroughs, he quite agreed with it, because it relieved the poorer districts, and was in reality a matter of equalisation. He thought there was a great deal of force in the argument of the hon. Member for Bethnal Green, who reminded the House that in 1887 the cost was put upon the national fund, to which London contributed a very large sum, although London was excluded from the operation of the Act. He was in favour of throwing this expense upon the country generally, although he agreed that the Government had gone in the right way in throwing it upon the County Council instead of upon the individual boroughs.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The effect of carrying the Amendment will not be to throw the expense on the taxpayers. The only effect will be that the Commissioners will not get paid at all.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 192; Noes, 100.—(Division List, No. 151.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Aird, John
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bethell, Commander

Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Biddulph, Michael
Blakiston-Houston, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
Carlile, William Walter
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)

Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Denny, Colonel
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Fry, Lewis
Garfit, William
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs)

Fretton, John
Full, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Helder, Augustus
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hill, Rt. HnA. Staveley (Staffs.)
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (H'mpste'd
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howell, William Tudor
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Kemp, George
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham

Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lorne, Marquess of
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lubbock, Rt. Hn. Sir John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
McAlmont, H. L. B. (Cambs.)
McIver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.)
McKillop, James
Marks, Henry Hanan-l
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Percy, Earl
Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
Pilkinton, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretymann, Ernest George
Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rankin, Sir James
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Rollitt, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)

Rutherford, John
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Savory, Sir Joseph
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.
Thorburn, Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Viscent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Jos. Powell. (Birm.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
William Walrond and Mr.
Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Austin, M. (Limerick)
Baker, Sir John
Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness)
Colville, John
Crombie, John William
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Daly, James
Davitt, Michael
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.

Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gold, Charles
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hogan, James Francis
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lyell, Sir Leonard
Macaleese, Daniel
McArthur, William (Cornwall)
McLeod, John
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)

Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
Phillips, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarsh.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Aldf. (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert (Edinb.)
Wallace, Robert (Perth)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wedderburn, Sir John
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woodall, William
Woods, Samuel
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Lough and Mr. Pickers-
gill.

Clause, as Amended, agreed to.

Clause 15 :—

MR. STEPHENS (Middlesex, Hornsey) contended that the sub-sections of this clause were clearly the pivot upon which this Bill turned. Therefore, they ought to know exactly where they were, and the local authorities should not be left in doubt as to the position which they occupied under the Bill. He submitted his Amendment with confidence, for he thought no objection could be taken to the words he suggested, for it must be for the benefit of all that the rights of all should be clearly set forth.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 14, to leave out 'may,' and insert 'shall,' as the circumstances in each case may require."—(*Mr. Stephens.*)

Question proposed—

"That the word 'may,' stand part of the clause."

SIR R. B. FINLAY hoped that his hon. friend would not consider it was necessary to press his Amendment, for there was nothing to be gained by inserting the words which he had proposed. Who was to determine the circumstances of each case? Clearly, it could only be determined by the Commissioners or the Committee of the Privy Council. He maintained that to say "shall, as the circumstances of the case may require" was only saying, in a longer form, what was already provided for by the words "a scheme under this Act may make provision."

*COLONEL HUGHES (Woolwich) pointed out that if the Commissioners left anything out there would still be an appeal to the Privy Council, and they would have that remedy.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON asked whether it was intended to raise the question of boundaries upon Sub-section B.

SIR R. B. FINLAY replied that the boundary question would be dealt with at a later stage by the whole House.

In reply to Mr. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand),

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (SIR RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) said it was the intention of the Government to make the operation of Sub-section B as wide as possible.

MR. STUART said there was one part of Sub-section B which he thought ought to be dealt with by some specific reference. The words of the sub-section would appear to place it within the power of the Commissioners to divide up the London School Board. No doubt that was not the intention, but he believed that this sub-section would give that power taken in conjunction with the School Board Amendment Act of 1875. He raised the question in order that it might be made clear that the School Board was not intended to be interfered with in that way.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: That point has not been overlooked, and it may be necessary to introduce a saving clause to that effect.

Other Amendments made.

MR. STEPHENS thought that the parties interested in the apportionment and transfer of property and liabilities should be allowed to accommodate themselves by mutual arrangement, and he moved an Amendment with this object.

Amendment proposed.

"In page 9, line 30, at end, to insert '(e) for the apportionment and transfer of property and liabilities as may be done under section 68 of the Local Government Act, 1894.'"—(*Mr. Stephens.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY said he hoped his hon. friend would not press this Amendment, because they had already made provision to prevent any injustice in this respect. The Amendment was not really wanted, because the power of adjustment had been given to the body who had to prepare the scheme. If the parties ever arrived at a fair arrangement they would embody it in the scheme, and they would have power to make the adjustment if no agreement was arrived at. He hoped the hon. Member would recognise that the general words which they had already inserted in the Bill provided for the object which he had in view.

MR. STEPHENS asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 31, after 'Act,' to insert 'other than The London Building Act, 1894.'"—(*Mr. Courtney.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. LOUGH said that, on behalf of the hon. Member for Huddersfield, he begged to move the next Amendment standing on the Paper.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 36, at end to insert '(2) A scheme or order may be made for amending any scheme or order previously made in pursuance of this Act, and may be made by the same authority and after the same procedure as the original scheme or order.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER pointed out that the object of this Amendment was already provided for.

MR. LOUGH urged that this was another instance of the unfortunate system of legislation by reference. Unless the Government could point out some obvious objection, he thought it would be better that the words should be inserted in the Bill, and he supported this Amendment.

Amendment put, and negatived.

MR. STUART said he wished some provision to be made for enabling the new councils to spend money upon technical education, and he should also like to know whether this Bill would affect the Technical Education Act administered by the London County Council, or the grants made to the metropolis for technical education.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I may inform the hon. Member that there is no intention to interfere with the powers of the London County Council in regard to the Technical Education Act, or with reference to the grants made to the metropolis for the purposes of technical education.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 36, at end, to add, '(g) and for enabling borough councils to expend money on technical instruction, provided that nothing in this Act shall alter the powers of the London County Council in respect of the Technical Education Act and of the administration of the grant for technical education.'"—(*Mr Stuart.*)

*THE CHAIRMAN: This Amendment cannot be moved here, because it would be necessary to transfer to the borough councils the power to spend this money, and it is not in order to move something for which the necessary power has not already been given under the Bill. The hon. Member ought to have raised this question at an earlier period of the Bill.

MR. STUART said he should raise the question upon the Report stage. It was a very important point, and he could give facts to show the right hon. Gentleman how important a matter it was. Before the clause proceeded further he should like to raise it upon the clause as whole. Perhaps the Attorney-General would be able to answer the point.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER replied that this was not the right place to deal with it, although he did not believe that under the Bill as it stood the powers of the London County Council would be interfered with. With regard to the power of the new councils to spend money upon technical education, that would have to be provided for in a new clause.

MR. STUART asked if there was any intention of interfering with the Technical Education Board?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Certainly not.

MR. STUART, in moving the next Amendment, said a proposal might become law without coming before Parliament, but he thought that if the persons interested, or a certain proportion of the inhabitants, petitioned during a certain interval, then the scheme should not be brought before Parliament.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 4, after 'deemed,' to insert 'otherwise than for the purpose of lodging a petition.'"—(*Mr. J. Stuart.*)

Question—

"That those words be there inserted,"
put and negatived.

MR. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.) said that he believed the Government were fully alive to the necessity of the Amendment he now proposed.

Amendment proposed,

At end of Clause to add: "The Mayor, Commonalty, and citizens, and the Court of Aldermen, and the Coroner, and other officers of the City of London, and their deputies, shall also be deemed a local authority within the meaning of the said provisions so far as relates to any powers exercisable by them respectively within the ancient Borough of Southwark."—*(Mr. Causton.)*

Question proposed:—

"That those words be there added."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Government are entirely in accord with the views of the hon. Gentleman, and I will accept the Amendment, with the proviso that if further inquiries which we are making render it necessary to extend the words on the Report stage, we may extend the provisions to other cases.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. LOUGH said he thought the Government would see, after having considered the matter, that the words he now moved to add were necessary. An Amendment had been accepted which provided that the local authorities should be heard, and that there should be an inquiry in each of the localities before the Privy Council before schemes were decided, but he did not think it was quite certain that the Amendment would cover the case of the London County Council.

Amendment proposed:—

At end of Clause to add: "The London County Council shall be entitled to make representations to the Commissioners and to the Committee of the Privy Council in respect of any of the matters referred to them by this Act, and shall be entitled to be heard in support of such representations."—*(Mr. Lough.)*

Question proposed:—

"That these words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it would be desirable to accept the Amendment. There is no provision that I

am aware of in this Bill by which schemes will be decided which affect the London County Council, and that being so, it would not be proper to introduce such a clause as this into the Bill. It might possibly complicate matters, and I do not see that the interest of the boroughs would be in any way safeguarded by the words now suggested.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he understood that the clause was put in to safeguard the London County Council. He did not see why that body should be put into a worse position than it at present occupied under the County Councils Act, under which it had the power, upon the incorporation of any borough, to object if they thought proper. He thought that with regard to some of the outlying districts it was possible that their views on the subject might be advantageously expressed. It was evidently intended to put the county councils in a worse position.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman will see that there is a broad distinction between the position of the London County Council under this measure and that of the provincial county councils under the Act of 1888. Where, under the Act of 1888, a new borough was constituted, something was carved out of the area under the control of the county council, and, therefore, it was quite proper that the county council should have the right to appear, but so far as I can foresee the operation of this Bill, the London County Council will in no way be affected by the sub-division of its area into these local boroughs. Whether they shall be larger or smaller is a matter which concerns themselves, but it will surely not be contended that it concerns anybody else.

MR. STUART was of opinion that the Amendment might properly be accepted: it would not give the London County Council any undue power of interfering with or preventing the operation of the clause. The Amendment, as a matter of fact, was one which would simply enable the knowledge and information of the County Council, which were very great, to be laid before the Commissioners. He thought the information which it could give would be of the greatest assistance to the Commissioners, and so long as the

London County Council was not in conflict with the local authorities it would be a great advantage to have their views. He thought that allowing them to have a right to appear would lead to a valuable solution of the whole question. It would, of course, be seen that there was no want of cordiality between the County Council and the new boroughs.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No doubt the County Council is in possession of very valuable information as regards the whole of the county, but the hon. Gentleman will perceive from the Bill that there would be a full Commission sent down to inquire into any scheme which it was desired to adopt in any area, and it would receive information from all sources. Necessarily one of the sources of information would be the County Council. I think it would be better to follow the procedure of the Privy Council in the Act of 1888, which I think will meet the views of the hon. Gentleman.

SIR BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) was of opinion that the London County Council should have a right to appear.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it will be necessary when we come to the next clause to introduce words giving the County Council a right to be heard when an area which has been subject to the County Council is proposed to be altered. I think that is necessary, but the best way to meet the views of my hon. friend will be to insert words in the next clause.

MR. LOUGH said he had every disposition to accept the views of the right hon. Gentleman, but he thought he had not recognised sufficiently the fact that the Bill did not materially alter the position of the London County Council. Most of the clauses which interfered with the County Council had either been modified or struck out. No step could be taken in any of the areas of London without affecting them. Unless words were inserted in the clause expressly admitting the County Council, the County Council would have no right to appear.

*COLONEL HUGHES contended that the County Council had no right to appear at every local inquiry which might

be held, though he admitted that in some cases they might properly claim a right of appearing; but that matter would be dealt with in the next section. He for his own part would be very sorry to see the County Council appear in every local dispute and become a partisan of one side or the other.

MR. HALDANE (Haddington) said, as he understood the matter, the right hon. Gentleman contemplated that there should be full opportunity given to everybody concerned of being heard before the Commissioners or the Privy Council. If that was all the Bill contemplated, that was all that was desired; but he wished to understand clearly whether the only judicial hearing would be the hearing before the Commissioners. He thought the latter should have discretion to hear anyone they thought fit, who could throw light on the subject.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As I understand the matter, there will be a hearing before the sub-Commissioners, also before the head Commissioners, and if thought desirable—though I think this not likely—before the Privy Council itself. So there is a possibility of three hearings. By the time a hearing has taken place before the sub-Commissioners and the head Commissioners it will probably not be thought necessary to go before the Privy Council, but in an extreme case it would go there. A hearing before the Privy Council will lie in the background.

Question put, and negatived.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 16 :—

MR. LOUGH rose to move to omit the words "outside the City." The clause provided that every part of the administrative County of London should be in some borough or parish, but he pointed out that some parts were inside the City.

THE CHAIRMAN: So far as the hon. Member addresses his point to meet the words "outside the City," he is in order; but he is out of order in taking the point he is now taking.

MR. LOUGH admitted that that was so, and unless some further Amendment

was made it would be impossible to carry his intention out.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 17 :—

*MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) moved to omit the words "or of constituting a satisfactory area for a borough." He thought no parish would necessitate division in that way, but it might be sought to divide Hackney into separate portions. He did not in the least object to adjustment of boundaries, but he did object to a parish being cut into two distinct parts.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, lines 11 and 12 to omit the words 'or of constituting a satisfactory area for a borough.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Robertson.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not aware, any more than my hon. friend, of any case in which it would be either necessary or desirable to cut a parish in two in the sense of leaving a portion in two borough areas. At the same time I do not think it is necessary to cut out the sub-section. Probably the Commissioners would come to the same conclusion as my hon. friend, and, indeed, the Amendments accepted will prevent any rash tendency to cut parishes asunder. On the other hand, there may be cases where it would be extremely desirable to make small adjustments, and this, if my hon. friend's Amendment is carried, will be prevented.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON said he was satisfied with the explanation of the First Lord of the Treasury, and would therefore withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

SIR CHARLES DILKE moved the omission of Sub-section 1, for the purpose of asking a question of the Government, which properly arose on that sub-section, and which at an earlier period he pressed on the attention of the Government—the difficulty that arose in relation to the distribution of parochial charities when a

Mr. Lough.

portion of the parish was detached. There was no doubt that theoretically the rights of the parishioners were preserved under the general law, but how they could be practically enforced for the benefit of the inhabitants in the detached portion he could not conceive. The matter was of great importance to the inhabitants of London, and he mentioned it in order that it might receive the attention of the Government.

Amendment proposed—

"That Sub-section (1) be omitted."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed—

"That Sub-section (1) stand part of the Clause."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he had listened attentively to what the right hon. Baronet had said, but he failed to see how the Bill would affect the question of charities in any respect. Existing rights would be preserved by the general law. He did not himself think the constitution of these boroughs would make any difference, but he was prepared to consider the matter further.

SIR CHARLES DILKE said it would make a difference to the people who now received the charities if they happened to live in that quarter of the parish which was cut off, because they would be unknown to the governing body charged with the distribution.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he could not see his way to insert any general words, but if the right hon. Baronet would be kind enough to move to insert a new clause he would consider it.

MR. STEPHENS said that if one part of a parish were included in the new borough, there would be no body remaining by which the charities could be administered.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) thought it would be very easy to provide a scheme by which the Commissioners might deal with the transfer of a portion of the charity.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said it seemed to be a matter for the trustees of the charity.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) moved to add after the word "observed"—

"Provided that where any such detached part is geographically situate within any borough containing the principal part of the parish which shall be part of that borough."

The object of the Amendment was to avoid ambiguity or contradiction between two parts of the Bill. The scheduled borough of Westminster contained the hamlet of Knightsbridge, part of the parish of St. Margaret's, and although he was quite satisfied that it was the intention of the Government that the whole of the parish of St. Margaret's should be included in the borough of Greater Westminster, yet it would come directly under the description of the first three lines of clause.

Amendment proposed—

In page 10, line 22, after 'observed,' to insert, —'Provided that where any such detached part is geographically situate within any borough mentioned in the First Schedule to this Act, it shall remain part of that borough.'—(*Mr Burdett-Coutts.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said the Government would accept the Amendment, but it must be distinctly understood that they reserved to themselves the power of making a verbal alteration on Report.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea) said he could not understand why the proposal should be accepted in the case of one borough, while the Commissioners were to be left to deal with the rest of London.

COLONEL HUGHES said he thought the case would be met by the insertion in the schedule of the words "including the hamlet of Knightsbridge."

Question put and agreed to.

MR. BIGWOOD (Middlesex, Brentford) moved to omit Sub-section 2 of the clause. The matter to which the Amendment referred was of great importance to the inhabitants of Middlesex, and one upon which they felt keenly. The detached portion of South Hornsey, which was

evidently alluded to by the Amendment, was an isolated portion of a parish surrounded by London, but it was a thoroughly well governed district, and was complete in a variety of ways. The effect of this transfer would be that Middlesex would lose upwards of £2,000 rateable value, and, moreover, it would materially interfere with the conditions of the elections for councillors and aldermen, resulting in financial loss. Under the County Council Act of 1888 there was a clause which stated that when any transfer of a district was made it was competent for the inhabitants to be heard before the Local Government Board. Upon this point he desired to ask the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill whether he could see his way to accept the opinion of the inhabitants. Quite recently a poll was taken, and of those who voted 98 per cent. of the inhabitants were opposed to the transfer of the area to London. He had not heard that such transfers could be made against the will of the community. It was a monstrous thing that a man who was suddenly shifted into another area, to find that his rates were doubled, had no redress. If the right hon. Gentleman did not see his way to accept the Amendment, he suggested that the area might be absorbed in the County of Middlesex.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 23, to leave out sub-section (2)."—(*Mr. Bigwood.*)

Question proposed—

"That Sub-section (2) stand part of the clause."

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge) supported the Amendment. The County of Middlesex felt very strongly on this point, as it was a very poor county, and if the suggested part of South Hornsey were detached there would be a loss of £2,000 to the rateable value. The reason why Middlesex was so poor was because, in consequence of its contiguity to London, it had an enormous police bill to pay. When a vote of the neighbourhood was taken it was found that there was almost an unanimous opinion against the transfer. He thought the Government ought to take some means to meet the views of the people.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can assure my hon. friends that I sympathise with the difficulties which they have laid before the House. It does unfortunately happen that whenever we attempt by legislation to deal with areas, a great deal of local feeling and dissatisfaction is inevitably aroused. I am the last person to view that feeling with satisfaction or indifference, or to refuse to do anything I can to mitigate its intensity. I think my hon. friends will themselves see, however, that to leave this extraordinary anomaly unredressed when we are dealing with the subject of London government would be quite impossible. Anyone who looks at the matter will see that a Middlesex island is stuck down in the middle of the County of London, and that it really is a matter which it is impossible to leave undealt with in this Bill. Now, Sir, my hon. friend has complained of the financial loss which would ensue from cutting off from Middlesex so much of its rateable value, and I agree that it may be a very serious difficulty. But I would point out that under the existing law, which would be embodied in this Act, it is possible that schemes may be made by which financial injury to Middlesex may be mitigated or altogether removed. I am informed that courts of law have held that when rateable value is thus transferred from one county to another it is within the province of those who make schemes for carrying out the necessary adjustments to adjust, among other things, such alterations of the financial burden as may prevent the loss inflicted upon the county from being so onerous as it otherwise must be. The right hon. Member for Wolverhampton, who knows more about these questions than I can pretend to, tells me that not only is it done, but that as a matter of fact it is always done. I understand it has been laid down by a learned judge that it was the duty of the Local Government Board, or the authority concerned, to see that such redress should be made. I hope, therefore, my hon. friend will recognise the absolute necessity of carrying out this reform of boundaries. We feel that the injury to Middlesex, although it cannot be removed altogether, is really not so severe or so pressing as might be supposed.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wilts, Cricklade) ventured to intrude

in the discussion because in 1889 the matter, up to a certain point, came before the Royal Commission of which he was a member. If they would look at a map of the metropolis the Committee would see in a moment that what the First Lord had said was really unanswerable. They could not leave islands of Middlesex in the middle of the metropolis. Was there anything unusual in the proposal which the Government were making? The Government were only acting in strict harmony with previous legislation. With regard to the financial objections, Middlesex would, according to the principles laid down, be entitled to all the rates or liabilities they stood to lose.

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND asked whether the rateable value for which compensation was to be paid referred to the present rateable value, or to the rateable value which might accrue in the future.

*COLONEL HUGHES said that the hon. Member who moved the Amendment had spoken of the loss that would be incurred by the district, because when it became part of a borough they would have to pay School Board rates. He contended that they ought to pay these rates, because they had the benefit of the London school board schools. If compensation were to be paid at all, it ought to be paid to the County of London for the past use of these schools.

MR. STEPHENS thought that his hon. friend was quite in error. It was stated that Hornsey had built schools to accommodate children of this island district, but these schools were largely used by children from the County of London. He objected to this question being dealt with simply on a financial basis. The only reason assigned for the proposal was that the district did not look quite as it should upon the map. The First Lord of the Treasury had said, in the course of the Debate, that he was very much averse to dividing parishes. Well, South Hornsey was a little planet by itself; it was a distinct local entity. It had an urban council, a population of 10,000, and a rateable value of more than £50,000. It had a fever hospital of its own, and had put in operation many adoptive Acts. Moreover, the inhabitants were passionately attached to their own system of local self-government. In 1894 a poll

was taken, when 1,667 voted against amalgamation, and 33 for it. Another poll was taken recently, when only 30 voted for amalgamation. Surely the wishes of the inhabitants expressed in so emphatic a fashion as that ought to be respected. It was most completely equipped, most successfully managed, the rates were lower than its neighbours', and it had very little local debt. He would make a practical suggestion—to omit Sub-section 2 altogether, and allow the whole parish to come under the operation of Sub-section 3. By that means the whole case would be presented to the Privy Council, and dealt with after full inquiry and consideration, and the difficulties and inconveniences of an arbitrary decision would be avoided. The Privy Council Commissioners were sure to guide themselves by the expressed feelings of the inhabitants.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said it was an admitted anomaly that a little portion of Middlesex should be left in the centre of the County of London. It led to great inconvenience, and it ought to be dealt with in a Bill of this sort. Hon. Gentlemen had made one point as to compensation, but that would be met in a fair and just way. The hon. Member who last spoke said that the matter had been placed before the ratepayers, who had voted against amalgamation by a large majority. He would like to know the form in which the vote was taken, for in those boundary questions they could get a vote in any way, according to the manner in which the question was drafted. He did not think the votes of 1,600 people ought to stand in the way of a reform which should have taken place many years ago.

MR. BIGWOOD said the question of police had been introduced into the Debate. Now Middlesex had not a single policeman of its own; it was policed entirely by the Metropolitan Police. Every hamlet in Middlesex—where, by the way, a policeman was seldom seen—had to pay 5d. in the pound for the support of the Metropolitan Police.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. LOUGH said there was a little peninsula of Middlesex which stretched down into the County of London, which

created quite as great an anomaly as the island about which they had been speaking. Clissold Park, which was very thickly populated, was partly in the County of London and partly in Middlesex, and so was Finsbury Park. The great thoroughfare of Seven Sisters Road ran for a considerable distance through the County of London, then through this Middlesex peninsula, and then into the County of London again. Then the works of the New River Company were partly in the County of London and partly in Middlesex. If the Amendment he now proposed were adopted by the Government, a very necessary rectification of the boundaries of the County of London would be made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 23, after 'surrounds,' to insert 'wholly or for the greater part'; and in the same line to leave out 'detached.'"—
(*Mr. Lough.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought that the Amendment would carry the policy of the Bill too far. Objection had been raised by his hon. friends to the absorption of a district wholly surrounded by the County of London, but they would still more object to absorption of a part not so surrounded. He could not consent to extend the provisions of the Bill in the direction pointed at by the Amendment.

MR. STUART said, on the whole, the point raised by the hon. Gentleman could be made on the next sub-section, which provided that inquiry should precede absorption, whereas if the Amendment were made on this sub-section the absorption would be compulsory.

MR. LOUGH said there was as much to be said for the principle of this Amendment as for the last; but if the right hon. Gentleman could consider the matter on the next sub-section, he was willing to withdraw his Amendment.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE said there was nothing to prevent the administrative County of London making proposals for the alteration of boundaries.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. STUART said that the purpose of his next Amendment was to leave out the portion of Sub-section 3 which required that the detached portion of a parish to be annexed to the County of London must necessarily comprise the larger portion of the population. The effect of the Amendment would be to leave the whole subject to the consideration of the Commissioners. There was no doubt that in that particular part of London where Hornsey met Stoke Newington there were bad boundary lines, and he thought it would be a great improvement to take in that peninsular portion after full inquiry into the circumstances of the case.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 28, to leave out from 'London,' to 'the whole,' in line 30.—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. BOUSFIELD said he had also an Amendment of the sub-section, by which annexation of a detached part would not be contingent on any probable estimate of the population.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not think it would be fair to make the alterations in the Bill which had been suggested.

Question put, and agreed to.

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND said he had not yet received any answer to his question as to whether compensation was to be paid on present or prospective value.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said he could not answer offhand, but the matter would have full consideration.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 18 :—

Amendment proposed in page 11, line 10, at end—

Add "(3) Nothing in this Act shall prevent the council of any borough from continuing to make any contribution for the purpose of technical education hitherto made by any local authority. (4) Nor from exercising its existing powers to carry on a market."—(*Colonel Hughes.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he had no objection to the Amendment; but, as its object was simply to protect the rights of Woolwich, he would prefer to insert, after "borough," the words "consisting of or comprising Woolwich."

*COLONEL HUGHES assented to this suggestion; and the proposed sub-sections, as amended, were read a second time, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 19 agreed to.

Clause 20 :—

MR. THORNTON (Clapham) said he was informed that vestries had hitherto had the guardianship of the mortuaries in and around London, and there was some anxiety as to what was to be their position in the future. The Bill did not provide for the control of these buildings, and he should like to know what were the intentions of the Government with regard to them.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 37, after 'hall,' to insert 'or mortuary.'"—(*Mr. Thornton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY said he would suggest to his hon. friend that he should adopt more general words. It would be better to leave out, in line 39, the words "vestry or town hall," and insert "buildings which belong to any body whose powers and duties are transferred to any borough council by or under this Act." And then it would also be necessary subsequently to take out the words "of the borough in which the hall is situated."

MR. THORNTON said that under the circumstances he begged to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

MR. PICKERSGILL pointed out that Sub-section 3 provided that certain duties

now performed by the churchwardens in a borough should in future be performed by or under the direction of the town clerk, and he proposed to substitute for the town clerk the borough council. He did not see why those powers should be conferred on an officer of the borough council. It seemed to him that they ought rather to be vested in the body as a whole. Attention had been drawn to the matter by various vestries, who were pretty unanimously of the opinion that the power should not be entrusted to the town clerk, but should be conferred on the borough council. He was glad to see that several hon. Members had put down Amendments in identical terms to his.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 5, to leave out 'town clerk,' and insert 'borough council.'"—(*Mr. Pickers-gill.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'town clerk' stand part of the clause."

SIR R. B. FINLAY said the attention of the Government had been drawn to the point. It was one which he thought required consideration, but he believed it could be better dealt with elsewhere. He would be glad if the hon. Member would not press the Amendment at that stage.

MR. STUART said he could not see why the question should be left over, unless, indeed, the hon. and learned Gentleman wished to consider it in connection with the question of overseers. It did seem to him most extraordinary that these duties of churchwardens should be handed over to the town clerk, and not to the borough council. In his view they ought to get rid—in all civil procedure—of the antiquated anomaly of the churchwarden. Personally, he would be glad to see a much more sweeping Amendment carried.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said he had informed the Committee that the matter required consideration, with a view to the introduction of proper words. In the meantime, however, he was prepared to accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CAUSTON said he wished to point out that there was no provision in the Bill for appointing the trustees of parochial

charities, a duty which was now performed by the vestries. He thought that the Amendment upon the subject which stood in his name would commend itself to the Committee, and, without wasting time in discussing it, he would ask the opinion of the Government upon it.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 5, at end, to add, 'Where before the passing of this Act the duty of appointing trustees of any parochial charity or of any board of trustees constituted by an order of the Charity Commissioners has devolved upon the vestry of any parish, such duty shall be transferred to the council of the borough in which the parish is situate: Provided that in the future election or appointment of such trustees only those members of the council shall be entitled to vote who represent the parish or any portion thereof to which the charity is applicable, and where a parish has been divided by the operation of any scheme made under this Act, such scheme shall make provision for the proportion in which the trustees shall be appointed in like manner by each of the borough councils exercising jurisdiction over portions of the parish.'"—(*Mr. Causton.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I will agree to this Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) said he wished to raise the question whether this covered the case of ecclesiastical charities. It might be that there were such charities affected by some local or general Act which might pass under the control of the borough council, and he wished to make the Bill clear upon the point.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 5, at end to add 'no ecclesiastical charity (as defined by the Local Government Act, 1894) shall be affected by anything in this Act.'"—(*Lord Hugh Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he was entirely in accord with his noble friend. He did not think the Bill did affect such charities, but he should prefer that the words go in, it being understood that, if he thought it better to have a definition of parochial charities, he would incorporate the words in the interpretation clause.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 21:—

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS said he had to move an Amendment providing that the newly constituted area of Westminster should be called the "City of Westminster." He earnestly hoped that the Government would accept his Amendment, because he held that it was consistent with the desire they had expressed to respect local traditions. He would like to assure hon. Members on both sides of the House that it was not intended by the Amendment to claim exceptional treatment of any kind for the new borough of Westminster. They did not claim, neither did they pretend to a right to any of the privileges which in London attached to the name of city. They did not even desire a new title; the Amendment simply gave recognition to the title which the area included in the borough had possessed for over three and a half centuries. There were some 350 Acts of Parliament which referred to the area as the City of Westminster, and he thought he might well illustrate the justice of their claim to the title by quoting the fact that hon. Members themselves were summoned to Parliament, "to meet in the City of Westminster." They only wanted to retain their ancient title, which he trusted the Government did not desire to destroy, and which, if not retained for the purposes of the new borough, must necessarily disappear altogether, with the result that Members of Parliament would in future be summoned to meet in a place which really did not exist. He trusted it was not asking too much of the Government that this ancient and interesting title should be retained for the borough of Westminster.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 6, after 'shall' to insert 'direct that the area of Westminster, as constituted by this Act, shall be called the City of Westminster, &c.'—(*Mr. Burdett-Coutts.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My hon. friend knows that I heartily sympathise with the views he takes with regard to what is now to be called Greater Westminster. I

have no doubt the area is worthy of its long traditions. But my hon. friend asks me to single out the borough of Westminster, and give it a distinctive name, different from that given to all the other borough councils which this Bill proposes to establish. It appears to me that that is asking me to take a course which would be greatly resented by the other boroughs. I have no doubt that the term "city" would be habitually and ordinarily applied to Westminster in the future as in the past; but that we should describe it in an Act of Parliament by a name different to that which we deliberately apply to the other municipalities called into existence at the same time, by the same Act, under the same provisions, and subject to the same conditions, would be an anomaly which, I think, would be not unnaturally resented by other districts which are as large in point of population as Westminster, although doubtless not so rich in historical associations. The Government do not see their way to accept the suggestion of my hon. friend.

Question put, and negatived.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER suggested that it was desirable, so as to provide for the first meeting of the borough council, to make another Amendment, which he accordingly proposed.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 12, after 'duty' to insert 'and give such directions as to the first meeting of the borough councils.'—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 16, to insert 'The Order in Council under this Act, shall provide for the revised list of voters in the administrative County of London, outside the City being, in the year 1900, printed and signed before October 20, and coming into operation as the register for the purposes of the borough election on November 1.'—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he hoped that the Attorney-General would give his attention to the case of registers of parishes which were divided by the Bill, and added to other parishes.

MR. BOUSFIELD also pointed out that in some cases the Parliamentary borough might not be coterminous with the borough boundaries, and he wished to know if those cases were sufficiently provided for.

Question put, and agreed to.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said it had been pointed out it was not quite clear whether proper provision had been made for the existing members of local bodies remaining in office until the new bodies came into power. He thought it would be well to insert in the Bill a provision similar to Sub-section 8, Section 79, of the Local Government Act, 1894.

Amendment proposed—

“To insert: ‘On the day on which the first borough councillors elected under this Act come into office, the persons who are then members of elected vestries or district boards shall cease to hold office, and until that day the persons who are, at the passing of this Act, members of elected vestries and district boards shall continue in office as if the term of office for which they were elected expired on that day, except for the purpose that no further election shall take place.’”—(*Sir R. Webster.*)

Question—

“That those words be there inserted,” put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 22 amended, and agreed to.

Clause 23 :—

MR. COHEN said the Amendment to this clause, which stood in his name, depended a great deal upon what decision the Government came to in regard to Clause 11. He would formally move it.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 12, line 41, to leave out the words from the word ‘council,’ to the second word ‘the,’ in page 13, line 1.”—(*Mr. Cohen.*)

Question proposed—

“That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the words had better stand part of the clause at present. As my hon. friend observes, we have yet to deal with the postponed Clause 11, and when we do that we shall be able to see whether or not any modification is required in this clause. It is necessarily a question of drafting, and we have first to decide the question of policy.

MR. STUART suggested that the same course should be adopted with respect to this clause as was taken on Clause 11. Its consideration had far better be postponed until after Clause 11 was disposed of, as otherwise they would have great difficulty in reconstructing the Amendments to it. In fact, it would lead to a waste of time.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it is necessary to postpone the consideration of the clause altogether.

CAPTAIN NORTON pointed out that the whole clause was bound up with the question of overseers, and there were a great many Amendments on the Paper which certainly could not be decided until Clause 11 had been disposed of.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said he hoped the Committee would go on with the clause. If the hon. Member looked at it, he would see that it required very slight modification indeed, and it would be very inconvenient to postpone it.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON agreed that it was a matter of convenience, but held that there was a great deal of force in what had fallen from his hon. friends, for undoubtedly the clause would be discussed with greater efficiency and rapidity when they knew exactly how they stood in regard to Clause 11. The sooner they decided the question of overseers the better.

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 172; Noes, 94.—(Division List No. 152.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asquith, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarras, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)

Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull

Bigwood, James
 Blakiston-Houston, John
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Contts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. (G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbaird, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doford, William Theodore
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Garfit, William
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George

Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Houston, R. P.
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Kimber, Henry
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McIVER, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.)
 McKillop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Meysey-Thomson, Sir H. M.
 Middleton, John T.
 Monekton, Edward Philip
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicol, Donal Ninian

Pender, Sir James
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharpe
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sasoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Lord (Lancashire)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, R. G. (St. Pancras)
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Baker, Sir John
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sidney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Alston
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)

Daly, James
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.

Hogan, James Francis
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jones, William (Cardarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfred (Cumb'land)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas
 Lowles, John
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McArthur, William (Cornwall)
 McLaren, Charles Benjamin
 McLeo, John
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)

Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Reid, Sir Robert Threshie

Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E)
 Thomas, David Alfr. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)

Walton, Jn. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woods, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Cohen and Mr. James Stuart.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 7, after the word 'officer,' to insert the words 'whose office they may deem unnecessary; but any officer required to perform duties such as are not the same or analogous, or which are in addition to those which he is at present required to perform, may relinquish his office, and any officer so relinquishing his office, or whose office is abolished, shall be entitled to compensation under this Act.'—(Colonel Hughes.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have great sympathy with my hon. friend's Amendment, but it appears to me that the wording goes rather too far. I should suggest that before the word "analogous," the words "the same or" be left out, and instead of saying "which are in addition to" if the hon. Member would consent to insert "which are an unreasonable addition to," I will accept his Amendment in that modified form.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he looked with some suspicion on this clause, and if this proposal was accepted it would give rise to a good deal of difficulty. He hoped the Government would consider the matter and see whether their own sub-section did not meet the difficulty.

*COLONEL HUGHES pointed out that the word "unreasonable" would have to be decided by somebody, but, as all these questions were decided by the Local Government Board, he thought the alteration was not unreasonable, and he begged to move his Amendment in the amended form.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said they should be very careful not to inflict any injustice upon any existing officer. On the other hand this Amendment was very wide, and he thought they must be careful in what they did to protect the

ratepayers also. He thought some little modification was required in the Amendment to make it impossible for men to be given pensions when they might fairly be kept at work.

Amendment amended—

"By leaving out, in line 3, the words 'the same or,' and by leaving out the word 'in,' and inserting the words 'an unreasonable,' instead thereof."

Question proposed—

"That the words 'whose office they may deem unnecessary; but any officer required to perform duties such as are not analogous, or which are an unreasonable addition to those which he is at present required to perform, may relinquish his office, and any officer so relinquishing his office, or whose office is abolished, shall be entitled to compensation under this Act' be there inserted."

MR. PICKERSGILL hoped the Committee would not accept this Amendment in its amended form. He felt sure that the words went too far, and they would inflict a very great financial difficulty upon the new councils. He could not himself see why such an alteration should be made.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) hoped the First Lord of the Treasury would look at this matter with the object of economising in local affairs. If this Bill was going to perpetuate the emoluments and dead-heads of the present parochial system, he trusted the First Lord of the Treasury would stick to the simple words of the Bill, by which the councils might abolish any such offices without giving those officers any better terms than they got before. This was a Bill for simplifying local government, and not for quartering a lot of useless gentlemen upon the rates. He hoped these officers would not be given any more advantageous terms than were given to them under the Act of 1888.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that in Sub-section 2 the Government were preferring the Act of 1894 to the Act of 1888, although the latter Act gave these officers all the requisite compensation and protection which they ought to have. He did not see why the Government should, at this point, add words which he was quite sure would lead to a very great deal of friction. When an officer was put to work for which he was unfitted, and for which he was not engaged originally, he was entitled to compensation. If this was legislation by reference, let them stick to it, and not add words which, in his opinion, would lead to a great deal of expense and unnecessary friction.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not quite follow the hon. Gentleman in regard to legislation by reference. Surely there is nothing in what we have done which prevents us adding to or modifying our proposal if we think that course is desirable. The hon. Gentleman opposite (the hon. Member for Battersea) and others who have spoken seem to think that the terms offered in this Amendment, as amended, are unreasonably favourable to the officers. No doubt the Amendment is very favourable to the officers, but what I ask is, Is it unreasonably favourable? It is most important, as my hon. friend the Member for Islington pointed out, that this Bill should come into operation under conditions which will make it likely to succeed, and I cannot imagine any condition more likely to make it succeed than the feeling of the officers connected with the existing authorities that their interests have been duly considered, and that no unnecessary hardship has been inflicted upon them by the transfer of powers from the existing vestries to the new boroughs. I do not think that, as far as this Amendment goes, it will inflict any undue burden upon the ratepayer; neither do I think that it carries favour to the officials to any absurd or extravagant extent. Let us suppose that it was in the power of the new boroughs to require an officer to perform other work, or to add to the duties which an officer had hitherto performed an unreasonable amount of new work at the same salary. Everybody would say that that man was most unfairly treated, and the new borough council, in order to avoid the necessity of

paying compensation to that officer, might so apply the torture to him as to compel him to resign. It may be said, and with perfect justice, that the new boroughs are very unlikely thus to misuse their power; but if that be so this clause inflicts no hardship upon them, while it will do something to ease the minds of those officers who are, unfortunately, perturbed by the passage of this Bill. One cannot help feeling considerable commiseration for those officers who will be affected, and anything that can alleviate this injustice ought to be done.

MR. JOHN BURNS said the right honourable Gentleman was talking as if the whole of the officers who would be transferred and dealt with under this clause were officers who now devoted the whole of their time to the service of the ratepayers. This was not so, because a number of the officers who would be transferred were in many cases men who only gave two or three hours per day to the ratepayers' business, or probably two or three days per week. It did seem to him that the interests of the ratepayers ought to be safeguarded, and in the event of a transfer taking place, those persons who devoted only a portion of their time to the public service should not be treated as if they had devoted the whole of their time. It did seem to him unreasonably extravagant that any larger salary for slightly larger duties should be paid to these officials, who had only been in the habit of devoting a portion of their time to the duties of their office. He thought these officers were safeguarded in the most ample form in the Act of 1888. He therefore asked the Government to stick to the terms of their own clause. The right honourable Gentleman could rest assured that the word "unreasonably" would be construed by a number of clerks and assistant overseers in a very extravagant way, and he saw no reason why any of the officials transferred under this Bill should be given an opportunity of objecting to do the same or analogous duties. The word "unreasonably" would be very extravagantly interpreted, and he appealed to the right honourable Gentleman, in the interests of economy and efficiency, to remember that the London ratepayer had a right to consideration, and that these officials should not be allowed extravagant indulgences at the cost of the ratepayers.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said that the ratepayers were duly considered in this matter, and all that the Government desired to do was to see that justice was done all round. An officer might say that his duties were unreasonable, but unless the borough council agreed with him the matter would have to be decided under the 120th Section of the Act of 1888 by the Treasury, and he thought that those who had had any experience of the Treasury in such matters would agree with him that they were not a body who were likely to allow extravagant compensation.

MR. JOHN BURNS disagreed with what the right honourable Gentleman had just stated regarding the Treasury, because in the matter of emoluments, compensation for officials, and pensions, somehow or another the Treasury had the knack of condoning with the permanent officials, both Imperial and local. He had no faith whatever in the assertion that the Treasury were the friends of economy.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. RITCHIE, Croydon): I may say as one who had something to do with the Act of 1888, that I can assure the honourable Gentleman opposite that in those cases which came within my knowledge, when an appeal was made to the Treasury, they had dealt with the matter in anything but what I have considered a liberal spirit.

*SIR T. G. FARDELL (Paddington, S.) did not think that it was at all fair on the part of the honourable Member opposite to make such charges broadcast against the officers.

MR. LOWLES (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said his own experience led him to conclude that those ratepayers who treated their officers well were best served by those officials, and they retained them for a greater number of years. He had seen parishes where the officers had been changed continually because of the bad treatment they received, and such officers were continually on the look out for fresh appointments, with the result that their places were filled by men who did not possess the same local experience as those who had served the parish for a

long period of time. Under this Bill there was going to be a great deal of concentration, and many officials would be thrown out of employment. Although the ratepayers ought to be protected, he thought the officers concerned also deserved consideration. Local government was best served by officers who were treated well, and the ratepayers would lose nothing by this suggestion of the Government.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE asked whether or not, in the opinion of the officials of the Local Government Board, there had or had not been any hardship in this respect in past times, because that would naturally weigh with the Committee.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) replied that all the cases under the Act of 1888 had now been practically worked out, and none had been before him since the time he had accepted office under the Local Government Board.

MR. PICKERSGILL said the First Lord of the Treasury had told them that this Amendment was necessary in changing from the old system to the new. That change, however, was not greater than the change made in 1888. Some reference had been made to the question of pensions for the officers, but that question applied quite as much in 1888 as it did now, and nothing had been said to show that any injustice had arisen under the Act of 1888. The noble Lord below him had challenged the front bench to make any statement or give any illustration showing any hardship or injustice which had been done under that Act, and there had been no response. Therefore, they were entitled to ask why should this change be made, and why should the officers not be content to rely upon that Act, which had worked perfectly well, with justice not only to the officers but also to the ratepayers. He could not imagine anything more likely to create friction between the existing officers and the new bodies than to introduce this vague and unsatisfactory word "unreasonable." If they wanted to make mischief between the new borough councils and their officers they would do it most effectually by introducing this word

MR. JOHN BURNS asked the Secretary to the Local Government Board if he understood from his statement that no hardship had been inflicted on any officer under the Act of 1888?

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that all the cases under the Act of 1888 had been worked out in the specified time, and no case had come before his notice since he took office.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he gathered from that statement that since the honourable Member had been at the Local Government Board—and he had been there nearly five years—no cases of serious hardship had occurred owing to the operation of the Act of 1888. That being so he did appeal to the First Lord of the Treasury not to institute a new departure, under which all the officials would set the machinery in motion for a more favourable consideration of their pensions by the addition of the word unreasonable. The Act of 1888 set them an excellent precedent which he hoped

the right honourable Gentleman would stick to.

CAPTAIN NORTON urged the First Lord of the Treasury to stick to the Bill as it was framed, because he was perfectly satisfied that if this word unreasonable was introduced the result would be to immediately create friction between the new borough councils and the officers and the consequence would be that the officers would not be in such a good position as they were at the present time. If they relied upon what other officials in similar positions had been allowed then they would be on firm ground, but if they were going to be dealt with under a strictly new set of rules which might be interpreted in different ways by different people, he was satisfied that the officers themselves would suffer. Therefore, in the interests of the officers and the rate-payers he hoped the Government would not accept this Amendment.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 139; Noes, 61. (Division List, No. 153.)

AYES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Ascroft, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarrès, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Blakiston-Houston, John
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Cecil, Lord Hugh
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward

Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Garfit, William
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robt. Wm.
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst'd)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howell, William Tudor
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Kemp, George
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John

Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macedona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir Jo'n William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinboro' W.)
M'Killop, James
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Marks, Henry Hananel
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milner, Sir Frederick George
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, Walter
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William George
Muntz, Philip A. [(Bute)]
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham
Nichol, Donald Ninian
Percy, Earl
Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint Robert
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebottom, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)

Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.

Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of W.)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whitely, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)

Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath.
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wyndham, George
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Wm. (Gateshead)
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Baker, Sir John
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Broulhurst, Henry
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Daly, James
 Davies, M. Vaughan. (Cardigan)
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fergusson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Griffith, Ellis J.

Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, William (Carnarvon)
 Lambert George
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Leod, John
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morton, Ed. J. C. (Devonport)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Phillips, John Wynford
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)

Robson, William Snowdon
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
 Woods, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. John Burns and Mr.
 Pickersgill.

SIR T. G. FARDELL trusted that the Government would accept the Amendment standing in his name, which was, as an Amendment to Colonel Hughes' proposed Amendment, to leave out all after "but," and insert—

"The Borough Councils may distribute the business to be performed by the existing officers in such manner as the Councils may think just, and every existing officer shall perform such duties in relation to that business as may be directed by the Council."

MR. JOHN BURNS asked whether the honourable Gentleman was in order in going back. He thought the matter had been disposed of by the Division.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member is entitled to move the Amendment as an addition to the words already inserted.

Amendment proposed, after the words last inserted, to add the words—

"The Borough Councils may distribute the business to be performed by the existing officers in such manner as the Councils may think just, and every existing officer shall perform such duties in relation to that business as may be directed by the Council."—(Sir T. G. Fardell.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not quite sure that I follow the object my honourable friend has in his mind by moving an Amendment to the Amendment. If it was to be brought in at all it should have been brought in before the decision of the Committee was taken on the Amendment. I cannot imagine what power these words would give to the Borough Councils. The distribution of the business of the council is its primary right, and it will not be abused by the councils. I do not see that anything would be gained by accepting the Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Amendment proposed, in page 13, line 7, at end to insert—

"If any officer is transferred by or under this Act to the service of a Borough Council, and within five years from the date of transfer is removed from his office for any cause other than misconduct or incapacity, his office shall be deemed to have been abolished within the meaning of this Act and of the enactments applied by this Section."—(Colonel Hughes.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. JOHN BURNS asked that some argument might be adduced by the honourable Member in favour of the

Amendment, as it appeared to him that an Amendment of this character required some evidence on its behalf before a decision was come to on the matter.

*COLONEL HUGHES explained that it was in the interest of economical and efficient administration, and to safeguard those officials who might be placed in positions which they might not be able to fill. By the union of districts into a borough there would be consolidation and sometimes reduction of staff, and officials would have a claim to compensation on the abolition of their offices, but an officer might be considered eligible for other duties, and should be encouraged to attempt to undertake them. If, however, having made the attempt, he should be found unsuited to his new position, his claim to compensation for loss of his original position should not be prejudiced. He thought if some such clause was not put into the Bill that there were a great many men who would retire upon the abolition of their present offices instead of being transferred, which might do a great deal of harm to the new Borough Councils.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH, in support of the Amendment, drew attention to the fact that he had information that an actual case occurred under the Local Government Act of 1888, where a gentleman whose office was abolished accepted a new post—that of the Treasurer of the Middlesex Council, and lost his position within two years after the passing of the Act, and was awarded no compensation whatever. It was quite possible that such a case might occur on the present Bill becoming law. An officer might be found unnecessary under the new condition of things, but if he honestly attempted to perform other duties which he was incapable of, he thought he was as much entitled to compensation as if he retired on the abolition of his original office.

MR. JOHN BURNS thought that any person who required more than five weeks to consider his position—let alone five years—was a man who merited instant dismissal. The honourable Member for the Strand seemed to think that if anybody had to suffer it should be the public as they would have the gain. But there must be no such extravagance. What was it likely to lead to? It had been suggested that the duties of six parishes

Mr. John Burns.

might be amalgamated, and one man might do the work which six had hitherto performed; but that would mean that five men would be dispossessed, and they were going to be asked to compensate them. He objected to any extravagant compensation, and characterised it as a robbery. He appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury not to yield one iota to the pressure which was being brought to bear upon Members of Parliament by municipal officers' organisations to an extent which, he said, had become a positive scandal. Their electoral influence was considerably exaggerated, and in so far as it was used to press improper claims the House of Commons ought to resist the pressure. He sincerely trusted that the Amendment would be rejected, as it was one of such an extravagant character that no person could possibly support it.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS supported the Amendment, because he thought that some such provision as suggested should be made to meet the entirely new state of things which would be brought into existence by this Bill. He reminded the Committee that there had been no active legislation to meet such a case as this, which would necessitate the transfer of a whole class of public officials. He thought that a serious injustice would result to these men if the Government did not make some provision for those who had entered into a civil career, and who had up to now performed their duties with credit to themselves, and who would find their livelihood taken away from them by this legislation. The Amendment was drawn to meet that contingency, and he trusted it would be accepted.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE did not see what the new clause was to effect, seeing that they did not know the nature of the various Acts of Reform which had been passed. Only one instance had been brought to their attention where a grievance existed, and that was in the case of the treasurer of the Middlesex County Council. Under the old arrangement that gentleman was a highly paid official, but he was not a man who had a right to look for a pension. There was no grievance in that case, and that was the only one they had heard of. If there were any others they ought to be brought before the attention of the Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: On the whole, I confess I do not see any reason why this particular tenure of five years should be given to the officers after these new borough councils come into operation. As I understand, this proposal, formulated by my honourable friend, is unnecessary. As the Bill stands, any officer dismissed at any time after the Act comes into force through the amalgamation of duties resulting from the Act, would be clearly entitled to compensation. Therefore it is clear that the persons it is contemplated to deal with here are not persons who have been dismissed on account of the Act, but on quite other grounds. I think those persons have no right to compensation or pension by the vestries if this Act comes into force. These officers are now serving a public body which has a right to dismiss them. If they are so dismissed, I do not understand, unless there is a special contract, why they have any right to such compensation as is now the subject of the Amendment before the Committee. If by the change from a vestry into a municipality the office is abolished, we provide ample compensation. I do not quite understand why officers who have agreed to serve the vestries without this right of compensation should obtain a new and superior tenure from these boroughs, to whom their duties are transferred. Under the circumstances I do not feel that I can accept the Amendment. I believe that this Amendment is framed on the analogy of the Irish Local Government Act of last year, but that Act is not analogous to London Government. I do not think any injustice will be done.

*COLONEL HUGHES said he did not see how the position of these officials was to be secured without some such clause as he had proposed was accepted. What he foresaw was that if they accepted office under the new councils and afterwards they were dismissed, they would be without any compensation whatever. If the term which he had suggested was too long, there was no reason why it should not be made shorter; but it was manifestly unfair to these men, if they accepted new duties under the borough councils, and were subsequently dismissed, they should have no compensation. It was only fair that some amount of time should be given on both sides. Six months was better than nothing at

all; but if the borough councils appointed these men to new offices which they were unable to fulfil they ought to be entitled to compensation for loss of their old office.

MR. STUART pointed out that in almost every case the borough councils would be constituted by the same people who formed the vestries, and their officials would be the same as those who now served them. He thought it ridiculous to give them this five years' tenure.

MR. JOHN BURNS protested against the insinuation which had been imported into the discussion. The County Council employed a considerable number of officers and men, and the honourable Gentleman who moved the Amendment knew perfectly well that such a case as he assumed had never occurred. He challenged him to give one instance where, an election having taken place on November 9th, any man was sent suddenly about his business on November 10th because the Council wanted to economise. He appealed to the honourable Member not to press the Leader of the House further than he had already done, otherwise formidable difficulties might arise with regard to this Bill. He thought that the First Lord of the Treasury had gone as far as he could in the matter.

Question put and negatived.

*COLONEL HUGHES moved to insert at end of Clause 23 the following words:—

"All service by an officer under any authority or authorities to whom this Act applies shall be aggregated and reckoned for the purposes of this Act, whether the service has been continuous or not, and whether his whole time has been devoted to the service or not."

The object of the Amendment was to enable a municipal officer to secure a pension on the total number of his years of service in London, irrespective of his having changed from one district to another. He was prepared to admit that there might be cases which would not be met by this proposal, but it was impossible to make a law to meet individual cases.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 7, at end, to insert all service by an officer under any

authority or authorities to whom this Act applies, shall be aggregated and reckoned for the purposes of this Act whether the service has been continuous or not, and whether his whole time has been devoted to the service or not."—(*Colonel Hughes*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said the Government could not accept the Amendment, which seemed to be a rather dangerous one, as it covered more than a temporary break of service.

MR. STUART said he fully endorsed the view of the Attorney-General.

MR. JOHN BURNS said it seemed to him that the Attorney-General had touched the spot of this particular danger. In illustration of this he mentioned the notorious case of the Clerk of West Ham, who recently held 17 offices. Within the last month they had been reduced to 14, but he believed that was still the number, and these were some of the officers the honourable and gallant Member wanted to compensate! But the honourable and gallant Member went further. Supposing an officer left the whole of his offices for 12 or 15 months and then reverted back to them, he would still count that disconnected work as continuous service. It seemed to him preposterous, and outside the "Mikado" he knew of no parallel for such a proposal. He could not understand what the honourable and gallant Member wanted the clause at all for. Supposing, for instance, the clerk of the Shoreditch local authority was transferred to Mile End. He had had, say, 25 years in Shoreditch and under the Bill five years in Mile End. The honourable and gallant Member for Woolwich knew fully well that that man would claim and get 30 years' superannuation and compensation for his time and emoluments. But that was where a man properly devoted the whole of his time to the work. The honourable Member proposed that a man who held three or four offices under one body, with subordinate duties, should group the lot of them, and there would probably arise the ridiculous case of a man of 35 years of age who had had seven or eight years' service in five or six offices, walking off with a pension aggregated upon

those offices, whereas had he been a Civil servant he could not possibly have acquired it had he lived to 80 or 90. In the interests of the ratepayers of London he thanked the Attorney-General for the just, sane and sensible view he took of the Amendment.

*COLONEL HUGHES said he was prepared to modify his Amendment by inserting the words:

"Where service had continued without a break for more than three months."

MR. OLDROYD (Dewsbury) said he did not know what the experience in London was in this matter, but there was no doubt that if the Amendment were adopted it would seriously affect the position of municipal authorities throughout the country. The Attorney-General had pointed out a very fatal spot in the Amendment, but a more serious one still had not been touched upon—viz., that superannuation should be made whether the whole of the time had been devoted to the service or not. A large number of solicitors were employed as town clerks and held other offices, the result being that they did not devote the whole of their time to their municipal engagements. Although it was a great advantage personally to the specific solicitor to have the emoluments of his office in addition to the income derivable from his profession, yet the clause would give him the further advantage, after he had received all the emoluments arising from office, of compensation in the case of the abolition of his office. That would be a great injustice to the ratepayers generally, who had to find the money, although it might be a very convenient and pleasant thing for the solicitor. He trusted that the Government would be firm in their opposition to the clause, which would, he was sure, be opposed by the public generally, and by a large number of Members. He hoped, however, that the time of the House might be saved by the withdrawal of the proposed amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR T. G. FARDELL in moving the next amendment, said he had taken the words from the Bankruptcy Act of 1869.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 11, to leave out all after the second 'council,' and insert, 'If any person

to whom a compensation annuity is granted under this Act accepts any public employment, he shall, during the continuance of that employment, receive only so much (if any) of that annuity as, with the remuneration of that employment, will amount to a sum not exceeding the salary or emoluments in respect of the loss whereof the annuity was awarded, and if the remuneration of that employment is equal to or greater than such salary or emoluments, the annuity shall be suspended so long as he receives that remuneration.”—(Sir T. G. Fardell.)

Question proposed—

“That those words be there inserted.”

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said there were two matters involved in the Amendment. The first was the omission of three lines with reference to expenses being paid out of the general rate. That, of course, had nothing to do with the Amendment he subsequently proposed to add. The honourable Member was so enamoured of legislation by reference that he was anxious to cut out the case which the Government had put in the Bill. All that the Act of 1894 provided for was that expenses incurred should be paid out of a common fund. It was by no means clear that that would entitle a borough to provide a fund for compensation for loss of office, and therefore it was necessary that a specific direction should be put in the Bill, that these expenses should be paid out of the general rate. He now came to the additional sub-section proposed by the honourable Member. He did not know what the honourable Member meant by “public employment.” He thought that if a man had earned his pension, after long service, he should not be discouraged from endeavouring to improve his position by earning a little more. He thought that the enquiries which would have to be embarked upon would make the game not worth the candle. By accepting the Amendment the Committee would practically indicate that when public servants quitted the service at the age of 65, after which it was believed at the present day that no one was competent to do anything, they should remain in absolute idleness.

*SIR T. G. FARDELL said that the point was whether a person in receipt of a pension of public money, whether from the Civil Service or from a local government body, should be entitled to take a second office in either the one or the

other without surrendering a portion of his pension in the way indicated by the Amendment. He knew that there were pensioners who had received a pension charged on the Consolidated Fund, and who were also in receipt of a second pension charged on some other public fund. He maintained that that was not right; it was most unfair to the taxpayer, and it was to meet these cases that he had drafted the Amendment.

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) agreed with his honourable friend. If a man retired on a pension from one public office, he did not think he was entitled to take work in another public office. That was not the object of granting pensions.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 13, line 18, to leave out the first ‘may,’ and insert ‘shall.’”—(Colonel Hughes.)

Question proposed—

“That the word ‘may’ stand part of the clause.”

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE said that the word “may” was the right word here, for if “shall” were inserted, it would compel them to go on with the case without discretion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 24 :—

SIR T. G. FARDELL said he rather hesitated to move any more Amendments, but he ventured to make this one and trusted he might rely upon the support of his right honourable friend the Attorney-General.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 13, line 26, to leave out from ‘clerk,’ to ‘may,’ in line 29, and insert ‘who.’”—(Sir T. G. Fardell.)

Question proposed—

“That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he did not know whether his honourable friend was aware that the Government

had come to the conclusion that the clause was unnecessary, and they therefore proposed to withdraw it.

MR. JOHN BURNS asked whether the withdrawal of the clause meant that the town clerk could not appear in any cases?

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said the town clerk could appear without the clause.

MR. JOHN BURNS asked whether in a preliminary summons, say in an adulteration case, the town clerk could appear?

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said yes, he could. The words in the clause to which exception had been taken were those which said that the town clerk might appear "before any court, or in any legal proceedings." The dropping of the clause would not interfere with the usual practice by which the town clerk was authorised to appear in the summary courts.

Question put and negatived.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 25 :—

COLONEL HUGHES was about to move an Amendment, when

MR. PICKERSGILL said that he had an earlier Amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN said the Amendment of the honourable Member, and those of several other honourable Members, were out of order, because they sought to alter the London Equalisation of Rates Act. The Amendment of the honourable and gallant Member for Woolwich was in order, because it sought to retain that Act.

*COLONEL HUGHES said that if the parishes were grouped, and the money from the equalisation of rates was paid to the new borough councils, some of the parishes so combined would receive less than they received now. He could best illustrate his point by the statement of an actual case. The parish of Plumstead received £7,300 per annum from the Equalisation of Rates Fund, and the parish

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of Woolwich received only £800 per year. But if these two parishes were combined in the new borough, the £7,300 and the £800 would be put in one cheque to the borough council and put into a common fund, and distributed according to rateable value. The result would be a loss of £2,500 a year to Plumstead. Similar losses would be realised in the case of many districts by the combination of rich and poor parishes.

Amendment proposed, in page 14, line 8, at end, to add—

"Provided that any sanitary district existing at the time of the passing of this Act shall not gain or lose under the London Equalisation of Rates Act, 1894, in consequence of it being absorbed into a municipal borough; but continue to pay and receive through the borough council on the same basis of rateable value and population as if this Act had not been passed."
—(*Colonel Hughes.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that, if he understood his honourable friend aright, his point was that the equalisation of rates was now levied and distributed according to parishes, but that under this Bill there might be, and probably would be, a certain redistribution of parishes, and that the result of that would be that the governing authority substituted for the vestries would have to deal with a somewhat different unit than now existed for the distribution of the Equalisation Rate. His honourable friend would see, he hoped, that the Bill did not materially interfere with the principle of the equalisation of rates. His object was to give the groups of parishes the funds which were given to these parishes separately. As a matter of fact, the parishes were grouped under the existing law, and the District Board had the command of all the money, and not the parishes. That was the system which they proposed to perpetuate by the Bill. It was quite true that a sanitary district might be different from that which existed, but the distribution of parishes did not alter the principle on which the equalisation of rates was based. There were in existence powers by which two parishes might be amalgamated, and if they were so amalgamated there would be some alteration in the distribution of the Equalisation of Rates Fund in the

combined parishes, as compared with the distribution in the parishes separate. But nobody would say that because they were combined there was therefore any disturbance of the principle of equalisation. As regarded the particular instance mentioned by his honourable and gallant friend, it was quite true that Woolwich would gain by the junction with Plumstead; but, on the other hand, it was equally true that Plumstead would also gain by the higher rating value which Woolwich enjoyed. It was quite clear that if under this Bill the richer parishes gained something by equalisation of rates, the poorer parishes gained something by enjoying a share of the higher rateable value. He hoped his honourable and gallant friend would not think it necessary to press the Amendment.

*COLONEL HUGHES thought there would be an alteration in the operation of the Equalisation of Rates Act, but not of the Act itself. He begged to withdraw the Amendment.

MR. BARTLEY said that the difficulty to which the honourable Member for Woolwich referred showed how stringently the Equalisation of Rates Act worked. Instead of picking out the districts which really wanted relief, relief was given to every district whatsoever. A district got so much money because of its dense population, and that actually increased the density of the population. Instead of the Act relieving the poorer districts, it encouraged relief to districts whether they were poor or not. He thought the Equalisation of Rates Act was a bad measure, and was working badly.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE said that if any great hardship were to occur under the clause, the Commissioners would look after it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. PICKERSGILL, in moving a new sub-section, desired to revert to the question of the London School Board. When the point was raised earlier in the evening, he understood the Attorney-General to say that the proposed sub-section giving adequate protection to the London School Board would properly come in as a saving section at the end of

this clause. The London School Board had drafted the section which provided for such cases as Hornsey, and at the same time gave protection to the Board against the very general words of Clause 15.

Amendment proposed—in page 14, line 9, to insert as a new sub-section:—

“Nothing in this Act, and no order or scheme under this Act, or under the Municipal Corporations Act of 1882, as amended by the School Boards Act of 1885, shall abridge, alter, or affect the powers, rights, duties, and jurisdiction of the School Board for London over the area which for the time being shall constitute the administrative County of London.”—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he was prepared to accept the Amendment.

Question, “That those words be there inserted,” put and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 26:—

MR. JAMES STUART said that he wanted to know really what the words “earlier or” in line 12 meant. The appointed day was the day on which the members of the borough councils first selected under this Act came into office, and the old vestries would remain in office until then. He could not understand how new powers were to come into play under the Act six months before the constitution of the boroughs. He could not understand the alteration or reservation, but perhaps it would make the Amendment more simple if he moved that “or such other day, not being more than six months earlier or later” be omitted. It seemed to him that they were introducing enormous confusion into the whole affair.

Amendment proposed—In page 14, line 12:—

To omit the words “earlier or.”—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

Question proposed:

“That the words, ‘earlier or,’ stand part of the Clause.”

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said an examination of the subsequent part of the clause would show the real object of the words. There were certain preliminary

matters which would have to be got rid of under the Act, and the whole object of the clause was to enable them, if necessary, to fix a given day for such things to be done.

MR. STUART said that after that explanation he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment, but he thought it was due to the House they should know what those matters were.

*COLONEL HUGHES pointed out that the new borough registers, which were not to be published until October 1st, were to come into operation on 1st of November, and it was therefore absolutely impossible for the Privy Council to make the appointed day any earlier than 1st November. To his mind the words were entirely inoperative.

MR. BOUSFIELD suggested that it was contemplated to have a different appointed day for different boroughs, whereas Section 4 appeared to provide that there should be only one appointed day.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said there were not to be different appointed days in that sense. It meant that on the appointed day in each case each vestry should cease to exist.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 27 :—

MR. BOUSFIELD said he had been requested by the honourable Member for South Hackney to move the following amendment :—

Amendment proposed, in page 14, line 26, at end, to insert "and that expression 'elective vestry' means any vestry elected under the Metropolis Management Act, 1855."—(*Mr. Bousfield.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted" put and agreed to.

*COLONEL HUGHES said he wished to point out that in some cases the words "County Council" were used, and in other cases "London County Council." He thought it should be made clear that

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the London County Council was referred to, especially as there were outlying councils dealt with in the Act of 1888.

Amendment proposed, in page 14, line 26, at end, to insert :

"The expression 'county council' means London County Council."—(*Colonel Hughes.*)

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he could not accept the Amendment now, because they had adopted an Amendment which brought in adjoining areas and gave to other county councils, where a portion of their area was to be taken, the right to appear in certain limited events. His belief was that wherever the London County Council was intended, it was either specifically mentioned or the context showed that it was the London County Council. However, between now and the Report stage the Bill would be scrutinised in order to see if there was any ambiguity upon the point.

*COLONEL HUGHES said that on the understanding that "London" would be put in wherever it was required he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*COLONEL HUGHES said he had another Amendment dealing with the rating of Government property. He was anxious to secure that when the words "rateable value" were in question the Government property should be included. There was £90,000 worth of Government property in Woolwich, and it was therefore important that this point should be made clear.

Amendment proposed, in page 14, line 26, at end, to insert :

"The expression 'rateable value' shall include Government property upon which a contribution in lieu of rates is paid."—(*Colonel Hughes.*)

MR. JOHN BURNS sincerely trusted that the honourable Member for Woolwich would not press his Amendment. The way in which some local authorities had, for rating purposes, made a raid upon Government property was, in his opinion, disgraceful. They had followed up their attacks upon Government Departments by attacks upon police stations, police courts, and notably upon Woolwich

Arsenal. This policy loomed largely in the honourable Member's division, where they were making similar raids upon the County Council Pumping Station, upon the Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospitals, and upon School Board property, to an extent which was not creditable, and which did not show any regard for the public bodies which served London as a whole. He did not happen to have Woolwich Arsenal in his constituency, but he took under his protection an excellent prison at Wandsworth Common, and he was glad to think that they, at any rate, had not sought to profit by the existence of that institution. He protested against the grasping habits of the vestries in laying violent hands upon the property of Government departments and central bodies. He therefore hoped the hon. Member would withdraw his Amendment and let the First Lord of the Treasury, between now and the Report stage, see if he could not cut off some of the tentacles of these local bodies.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said the Amendment did not mean another sixpence in the shape of rates.

MR. JOHN BURNS: You will see.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he was surprised that the eagle eye of the honourable Member for Battersea had not grasped the real meaning of the Amendment. The only object was to secure that when a proposed area contained Government property worth £50,000, that amount should be included in the amount going to make up the necessary total of £500,000. It seemed to him that the Amendment was one which ought to be accepted.

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) said that at present they had two sets of burial laws. The Acts had their advantages and disadvantages, and those districts which had to provide cemeteries were left to choose which they would adopt. The consequence was that some adopted one and some adopted the other. He contended that the inhabitants of London should be placed upon the same footing as the rest of the country, and that was what he proposed to do by the Amendment he now moved.

Amendment proposed, in page 14, line 31, at end, to insert :—

“The Public Health (Interments) Act, 1879.”
—(*Mr. Carvell Williams.*)

Question proposed—

“That those words be there inserted.”

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said his recollection was that the Public Health (Interments) Act, 1879, was not an adoptive Act at all. If the honourable Member would look at line 31 of the clause, it said, “the Burial Acts 1852 to 1885,” and that was a comprehensive way of citing the whole series of Burial Acts. If the Act which the honourable Member alluded to was not an adoptive Act it ought not to be brought in at all.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS pointed out that, under the previous Local Government Act, Marten's Act was made available, and he contended that it should be made available under this Act. He very much doubted whether the statement of the learned Attorney-General that the words provided included Marten's Act was correct. At any rate, no harm could be done by adopting the Amendment.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that perhaps the Attorney-General would be willing to look into the matter.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS asked if he was right in assuming that the matter would be cleared up on the Report stage.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he did not think that there was anything to clear up. He would undertake to see whether or not it came within the series of adoptive Acts.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 28, agreed to.

Postponed Clause 11 :—

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It will be within the recollection of the Committee that we had an animated Debate last night upon Clause 11, the result of which was that the clause was postponed until the rest of the clauses had been dealt with, and that consummation has now been

happily arrived at. The contention was between, I frankly admit, almost the unanimous voice of the London Members and myself as representing the views of the framers of the Bill, and it turned upon this point. They were anxious that the borough councils should be the overseers in all cases, as they now are in about fifteen cases in the metropolis. I was anxious that the question of the personal responsibility of the overseers should not be wholly merged in corporate responsibility, which would have been the result of the view of the London Members being adopted in an unmodified way. Let me state that the fact that Parliament has in successive private Acts given the powers and privileges of the overseers to these fifteen bodies is undoubtedly an argument for extending similar privileges to every one of the remaining municipalities. It is universally admitted that it is desirable that the system in London should be a uniform system, while it is obviously difficult to withdraw from bodies which have by statute already obtained certain powers, the powers which they have thus contrived to induce Parliament to give them. On the other hand, I do not think there is any serious attempt to meet the view which I venture to put forward, that in certain aspects the corporate responsibility was but a very poor substitute for individual responsibility. The responsibility of the overseers obviously deals with two quite separate sets of duties. There are the duties connected with the collection and the levying of the rates and the making of the rate. That is one set of duties entirely financial in their character, or, at any rate, principally so. There is, in addition to the duties which are financial and local in their character, the duty of making the lists of voters, which is only secondary and partially of a local character, but which is mainly of an Imperial character. It does not affect the finances of the district for which the borough council is responsible, but it does affect the Imperial rights of all voters within that area. It may be true—and I think it is in part true—that even on the financial side personal responsibility may be, in certain cases, important. My honourable friend the Member for Hastings, speaking last night as representing one of the boroughs outside the metropolis, urged upon the Government the acceptance of an Amendment making the borough councils the overseers, and he did

it avowedly, as representing the opinion of his constituents. In my honourable friend's constituency, I understand, there lately was a difficulty about the rating. The collector of rates absconded, and made away with rates to the amount of about £1,500. Under the existing law the overseer was, of course, responsible, and from the overseer, as I understand the matter, no inconsiderable portion of that money was obtained. Had the law been modified, as my honourable friend desires to modify it, the whole of that money would have been lost, because the borough council would have been responsible, and the persons who would have suffered would have been the ratepayers. I quite admit that the financial part of the question is a subordinate part, although not an unimportant one. I will give another case. In one of the vestries in London I believe there was an attempt made to refuse to collect the School Board rate for the metropolis on the ground that that rate was excessive in its amount. I believe the School Board threatened legal proceedings, although, as a matter of fact, the matter never went further, but had the vestry in question behaved as I remember the Corporation of Limerick once behaved during the time of Lord Spencer's administration in 1882 or 1883, it would have been found impossible to deal with them. I can assure the honourable Gentleman opposite that it is not an easy matter to imprison a whole corporation. But I think there is a case for personal responsibility on the financial side, and although I think that the two instances I have given are of some importance, I do not think, broadly speaking, it is necessary to press them, and I am perfectly ready to give up any idea of maintaining personal, as distinguished from corporate responsibility, with regard to this question. I think, however, it would be desirable that there should be some responsibility retained in regard to the imperial side of the duties of the overseers, namely, that of preparing the lists of voters, and I think that probably the views of all parties might be met if we were to lay down that the corporations of the new borough councils should be the overseers for all purposes connected with the levying of the rate, but that the town clerk, the officer appointed by them, should be responsible for making the lists. That seems to me to meet the views which I ventured to express last

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

night, and which, at the same time, meets the widely and almost universally expressed opinion of the London members. I do not know that there is anything more which I need add in explanation of that view. If the House were prepared, as I hope it is prepared, to accept this as a reasonable compromise, the best plan would be to accept the Amendments standing in the name of my honourable friend the Member for Wandsworth. It is a long series, but I will read the clause as it would stand amended. In addition to my honourable friend's Amendments, of course some proviso will have to be put at the end of the sub-section to provide that the town clerk of the borough should have the duties and powers and be subject to the liabilities of the overseers with respect to the registration of the electors within the borough. If the House will permit me, I will read the first two sections of the clause, which are practically the important sections, as they stand amended by the combined effects of my honourable friend's Amendments and the one which, on behalf of the Government, I intend to propose. These two sections will run :—

(1) After the appointed day the council of each borough shall have the duty and power of overseers of each parish within their borough, and shall appoint such officers as may be required to assist in the transaction of their business, and shall defray the expenses of and incidental to the performance of the duties of overseers.

(2) The council shall have all the powers and duties, and be subject to all the liabilities, of overseers, except as aforesaid, and any document required to be signed by overseers may be signed by the town clerk.

There are other consequential Amendments standing in the name of my honourable friend to Sub-section 5, while Sub-section 4 will, of course, go out altogether. That, I think, in a general way, carries out the policy of the great body of London Members, and I think will form a model on which any future reform of the borough councils of the country on this subject may very well be formed, and in that case London would take the lead. The change appears to be very popular, and, as my right honourable friend reminds me, is not less desired in other parts of the country.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the proposal which the right honourable Gentleman had just made met the views which had been generally expressed from all

sides of the House. As they had stated before, they did not wish to make this question in any sense a party question, and although it did not go so far as some of them might have wished, it seemed to him to meet, substantially, the views which were expressed the other night. He understood that the right honourable Gentleman's real reason for making that distinction was that one was an imperial question and the other a local one. He was very glad to hear what fell from the right honourable Gentleman, to the effect that this proposal might lead to the extension of this system to other parts of the country. He thought that would be a very great advantage from the point of view of efficiency and economy. As far as he was concerned, it seemed to him that the right honourable Gentleman in this Amendment had met the substance of their objections.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH said that far as he was concerned he was perfectly ready to accept the proposal of the Government. This was the proper course to take if they had any confidence in the new councils at all, and he thought his honourable friends would be ready to accept the suggestion of the Government.

MR. LOWLES said that, as the first Amendment referred to stood in his name, perhaps the Committee would allow him to tender his thanks to the right honourable Gentleman for the statesmanlike concession he had made.

MR. PICKERSGILL said that so far as he was able to follow the proposal, there was no specific reference to the preparation of the jury lists, and he thought the effect of this new proposal would be to leave the preparation of the jury lists in the hands of the borough council. He wished to know whether that was the intention.

MR. JOHN BURNS said the point raised by his honourable friend was a very important one, and he trusted that the First Lord of the Treasury would take cognisance of it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The intention is that the jury lists, like the other lists, should be prepared by the town clerk, and I believe the words I have suggested carry out that intention.

MR. STUART pointed out that the lists were now prepared by the overseers in virtue of an Act which vested that power in the overseers, and he thought they would find it advisable to deal with the powers of the churchwardens. What the right honourable Gentleman had done had been to go a very considerable distance towards what they wanted, and so far as he had gone he had shown a spirit of conciliation in the matter. The new system might very well be adopted in the rest of the country, and it would be a great advance in many parts of London. He should like to have seen the powers which already existed preserved, but he would not move any Amendment to disturb the unity which the right honourable Gentleman had created, and the great advance he had made in many parts of London. He should, however, like to reserve his consideration of the matter, because he was not yet quite clear whether the transference of the two duties of the overseers to the town clerk might not, in the end, duplicate the officials. No doubt the right honourable Gentleman would be as anxious as he was to avoid that duplication, and it might be necessary to introduce some sub-section which would enable the officers to be used in common for those two duties.

MR. JOHN BURNS was exceedingly glad that the right honourable Gentleman had done what he had done, and he identified himself with everything that had been said about this proposal. But after all, town clerks, like overseers and Members of Parliament, were only human. He wanted to know whether the First Lord of the Treasury intended that both the jury and the voters' lists, which were to be taken from the overseers to the town clerk, would be subject to review by the borough council as a whole after the lists were prepared, because he was not prepared, however virtuous and immaculate a town clerk might be, to leave the official preparation of the jury or voters' lists absolutely to the dictum of one man; and unless this was subject to the criticism and review of the council, it seemed to him that the right honourable Gentleman was simply taking from the board of overseers these powers and putting them into the hands of one man. If the borough council had power to review them he quite agreed, but he knew one or

two constituencies where the town clerk might be susceptible to outside influences.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON desired to know how far the borough council would have the control of the town clerk in regard to the preparation of the lists, for he thought it was a matter of some importance.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course the town clerk would be in the position of the assistant overseer and would be controlled by the revising barrister, and he would be personally responsible to him for any failure in carrying out his duties. He would, to this extent be responsible to the borough council for this part of his duty—if he did his work in a slipshod or slovenly or partial manner he could be turned out at the end of the year. If in this connection the work of the town clerk did not come up to the standard of efficiency which they had a right to expect, the council would unquestionably be justified in dispensing with his services.

MR. STUART said the right honourable Gentleman was obviously extremely anxious to deal fairly with the matter, and he thanked him for giving them a very great deal more control than existed at present. He must say, however, that there was a great deal in what the honourable Member for Battersea said about the want of control in this matter, because although a town clerk might be a bad hand at arranging the lists he might be a good hand at something else. That was his justification for placing this matter before the Committee.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth) said the question arose as to what honourable Members opposite meant by control over the action of the town clerk in preparing the lists. If the power of the council upon this question of control was to extend to revising the names inserted in the list it would be a very serious matter. They wished to see these important duties in the hands of a statutory officer and to secure the general performance of those duties in a business-like manner. It would never do to invest in a borough council, which might become actuated and

governed by political sentiments, the power to coerce or direct an officer as to the names of the electors that he should insert or omit in the lists which under the statutory duties imposed upon him by this Bill he ought to insert or omit. He thought, from what the First Lord of the Treasury had said, that the intention was that the town clerk should be an officer appointed directly by Parliament, who would have complete control of the matter. He thought the provision proposed by the Government was a very wise one, and his view was that it would be better to accept the Amendments as they were.

MR. THORBURN (Peebles and Selkirk) pointed out that the Government's proposal was based upon the system which had been adopted in Scotland, and which had worked excellently. He hoped his honourable friends opposite would accept the proposal of the Government.

*COLONEL HUGHES thought they would find out that some further Amendments would be required on the Report stage. He did not know whether they meant the parochial voters or the Parliamentary voters.

COLONEL MILWARD (Stratford-upon-Avon) said the Leader of the House had stated that if the town clerk did his duty in a slovenly manner he would be liable to dismissal at the end of the year. From his own experience in this matter he was not quite so sure about that.

The series of Amendments indicated in the speech of the First Lord of the Treasury were put and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 41, after 'clerk,' to insert 'upon such date or within such period as the Local Government Board may prescribe, so that all the rates collected in a metropolitan borough from any person may be included in one demand note.'—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there added."

SIR R. B. FINLAY said that although it was desirable that as far as possible

there should be uniformity as to the day, he hoped the Committee would not accept the Amendment, because it would throw upon the Local Government Board the duty of prescribing the date on which the precept should be issued. Moreover, the effect of the Amendment went rather beyond the scope of the measure, as it interfered with other bodies empowered to issue precepts.

Mr. STUART said, of course, if the Amendment went beyond the scope of the Bill he would not discuss it, but if it were within the scope of the Bill he would urge the Solicitor-General to consider it with a view to securing uniformity in the issue of precepts by local authorities. Five authorities issued precepts—

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I think the honourable Member has himself shown that the Amendment would be outside the scope of the Bill, as it would affect the Acts regulating these different bodies.

MR. LOUGH said that it would be very desirable to insert a provision simplifying the form of the precepts now issued.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That would raise practically the same point which I have just ruled out of order.

MR. JOHN BURNS asked whether it was not possible, before the Report stage, to devise a means by which uniformity as regards precepts could be secured.

SIR R. B. FINLAY hoped that the different bodies would act together as far as possible.

MR. LOUGH said the point of his Amendment was that the ratepayer should know the purpose for which he was contributing any particular rate.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member, by inserting these words, would be affecting the Act under which the London County Council issues its precept.

MR. LOUGH said he hoped that the matter would be considered before the Report stage.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON asked if before Thursday the clause would be printed, as it would be a great convenience in discussing the schedule?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot give an absolute pledge. I believe it can be done, and if it can it will be done.

MR. LOUGH said he thought the London County Council ought to be substituted for the Local Government Board in the clause.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said the matter was clearly one not affecting the London County Council.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It will be in the recollection of the Committee that at an early stage of our proceedings the question of audit came before us, and I pointed out that it could hardly be advantageously discussed at that period, but that I would bring up a clause at a later stage after the whole question had been considered. We have decided to adopt the suggestions offered by Members on both sides, and to fall back on the system of audit now in force in the London County Council. I do not wholly like the system of the Local Government Board, because it is essentially official in its character, and there may be times when more elasticity is desirable than it is possible or right for a Government Department to permit. The County Council system has been well tried, and it has certainly secured absolute honesty and conformity with the law. I therefore move to insert the clause I have drawn up.

New Clause—

"After the appointed day the accounts of the council of every metropolitan borough,

and of any committee or other statutory body appointed by the council, and of their officers, shall be made up and audited in like manner and subject to the same provisions as the accounts of the London County Council, and the enactments relating to the audit of those accounts and to all matters incidental thereto, and consequential thereon, including the penal provisions, shall apply, accordingly."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

brought up and read the first and second time, and added.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said he had a clause to propose dealing with cases where it might be necessary to alter the wards or the number of councillors. The matter was mentioned at an earlier stage, but was reserved for consideration. What he proposed was that if the Local Government Board were satisfied that an alteration were desirable they should make such an inquiry as they thought necessary, and make the alterations accordingly. The clause he would propose was as follows:—

New clause—

"(1) Whenever the Local Government Board is satisfied that a *prima facie* case is made out for a proposal for the alteration of the number of wards of a metropolitan borough, or of the boundaries of any ward or of the apportionment of the members of the council among the wards, the Local Government Board may cause such inquiry to be made and such notices to be given as they may think expedient; and if satisfied that the proposal is desirable, may make an Order accordingly.

"(2) Notice of the provisions of the Order shall be given, and copies thereof shall be supplied, in such manner as the Local Government Board may direct.

"(3) The expenses of and incidental to the making of the Order shall be paid by the borough council."—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the clause be read a second time."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON asked why the duty of making such alterations was to be taken out of the hands of the London County Council. The only reason given was that the borough councils should not be in any way under the authority of the County Council. But it was

not a case of placing them under the authority of the Council. The Council had discharged the duty very well, and if it were transferred to the Local Government Board it would lead to delay and expense. This was a retrograde proposal and would not be to the advantage of the borough councils, the County Council or anybody.

MR. LOUGH said the Solicitor-General had not given a single reason why the powers which had been exercised by the County Council to the greatest satisfaction in every part of London, and were also exercised by councils in the provinces, should be transferred to the Local Government Board. The principle was antagonistic to all the principles on which local government rested. The County Council had representatives from every district in London; it had the machinery; and it was admirably adapted for doing the work, whereas the Local Government Board had no facilities whatever. Every session they were depriving the Local Government Board of some of its duties. He believed the Solicitor-General had no faith in the proposal, and he hoped hon. Members on the other side of the House would oppose it.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said he was not prepared to deny the statement that the London County Council had performed the duty satisfactorily, but his honourable friend was quite wrong when he said that that duty was also performed by county councils in the provinces.

MR. LOUGH asked whether the duty was not discharged by county councils in county boroughs.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that both in county and non-county boroughs it was discharged by the Local Government Board. The boroughs had perfect faith in the Local Government Board. The local inquiry was always admirably conducted. He was not prepared to say a

word against what the London County Council had done, but he dissented from the view that the county councils ever had any right to interfere in any way whatever in county or non-county boroughs.

MR. LOUGH said he was not referring to the boroughs, but to the county area outside, and the argument he wished to draw was that the county councils generally throughout England discharged an analogous duty over rural areas to that discharged by the County Council in London.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he understood that a municipal borough had the power to arrange the wards within its own area.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The arrangement of the wards is done by a Government Department after local inquiry.

MR. JOHN BURNS said under the Act of 1894 the county councils had the power to re-arrange the parish and district council areas. During the last ten years the London County Council had re-arranged the wards for vestry elections, and they had performed that duty fairly and impartially. Why should that duty be taken away from them and given to the Local Government Board? The best authority for this work was the County Council. He appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury, who had conducted this Bill with great fairness to the London County Council, not to mar the effect of the graceful concessions he had made by stripping the County Council of this power, which they had hitherto exercised in a satisfactory manner.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 166
Noes 64.—(Division List No. 154.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Waltham)
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bethell, Commander
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Brasey, Albert
 Brodriek, Sir H. St. John
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Garfit, William
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gilliat, John Saunders

Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Green, Walford D. (Widnesbury)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bourne)
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Captain Herbert M.
 Kemp, George
 Kenyon, James
 Kimber, Henry
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Cornwall)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorkshire)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cunningham
 Maclure, Sir John William
 MacArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McKillop, James
 Mannes, Lord Edward Wm. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Marks, Henry Hannibal
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monckton, Edward Philip
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N. Ireland)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. Monmouthshire
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)

Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Penn, John
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlepool)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Russell, T. W. (Tyne)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbyshire)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancashire)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Start, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford University)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-Lane)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birmingham)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestershire, N. Division)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wyndham, George
 Yerrburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E. Division)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Wm. (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Baker, Sir John
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.

Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-shire)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Doogan, P. C.
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby County)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale

Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumbria)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacArthur, William (Cornwall)
 McKenna, Reginald
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)

Norton, Captain Cecil William
Oldroyd, Mark
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)

Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Steadman, William Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert (Perth)
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfield)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Lough and Mr. John Burns.

Clause added.

*COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) moved the following new clause:—

“The council of each metropolitan borough shall within six months of the passing of this Act, at their own expense, provide and keep a supply of pure and wholesome water in all the drinking fountains and cattle troughs now belonging to the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association situate in their respective boroughs, and shall maintain and keep the same in good repair and condition.”

He did not desire in any way to overdo the Bill; he merely asked the Government to provide reasonable facilities for the supply of water in London.

New clause (borough council to provide supply of water).—(*Colonel Lockwood*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That the clause be read a second time.”

SIR R. B. FINLAY agreed that there should be a proper supply of fine and wholesome water, but he submitted that it was hardly proper to insert in a Bill of this kind a clause dealing with such details.

MR. STUART said he was so delighted to find himself at last in agreement with the honourable and gallant Gentleman on a water question that he hoped the honourable and gallant Gentleman would divide.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he should certainly support the honourable Mem-

ber if he divided on the matter, because there was no doubt that the vestries who had the management of the fountains in certain parts of London had not kept them in a proper condition. He was personally interested in one of the fountains, which was erected by members of his family in commemoration of a certain event, and he was certainly ready on behalf of those who were interested in the fountain to put it in proper repair, and then hand it over to the borough council. But at present there were great difficulties with regard to this and many other fountains, because in some cases the vestries had taken them over and put them in proper condition, and in other cases had not. He thought it would be a very great advantage to the metropolis as a whole if the matter were handed over in every case to the borough council. The clause seemed to be a very proper one.

MR. BANBURY said he admitted that it would not be advisable to put on the new borough councils the management of all sorts of philanthropic institutions. This, however, was a very small matter. It was already undertaken by some of the vestries, and unless some intimation on the subject was given in the method proposed to the borough councils it would very likely escape their notice. It must, however, be remembered that the fountains were provided by private subscriptions; those private subscriptions might cease at any moment, and then would also cease a very good and useful supply of water. He hoped, under these circumstances, the Government would reconsider this very small question and accept the Amendment proposed by his honourable and gallant friend.

MR. LOWLES said he thought this was a very proper and wholesome proposal. To empower local authorities to

keep water—sweet, pure, and clean—in the drinking troughs would encourage the provision of such troughs by kindly persons and benefit the animal world in London. The only alternative was water troughs outside public-houses. He strongly supported the Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course everybody must sympathise with the object of my honourable friend in wishing to benefit poor dumb animals. There is no dispute about that. But let honourable Members consider what they are doing if they introduce this clause. This is one of a large number of functions which it may be possible to place upon the new borough councils, and I understand that an honourable Member has already suggested cabmen's shelters as another. I think cabmen's shelters are quite as important, but it would be inexpedient to go through all the possible philanthropic duties which may be incorporated in a Bill of this description. If the House thinks it necessary to throw on the new authorities the duty of supplying water for cattle and horses, well and good; but you must clearly leave it to them to devise the method by which that is to be carried out. To transfer to their shoulders the care of cabmen's shelters and drinking troughs, in addition to the heavy responsibilities already undertaken by them, would be inexpedient, contrary to legislative practice, and could not with advantage be adopted.

MR. LOUGH said he thought that the right honourable Gentleman in charge of the Bill really misunderstood the clause. As far as he (Mr. Lough) understood it the object was not to compel the council to do anything in the matter, but to give them power to do so. He thought a certain latitude should be given to them to discharge these duties if they thought fit. The right honourable Gentleman had announced himself in favour of the principle of the clause, and he (Mr. Lough) asked the Government to adopt it. It seemed, perhaps, a small matter, but there was a great deal in it, involving as it did the comfort both of human beings and of animals of all kinds. He

Mr. Lowles.

thought the clause might be made permissive, and in that way adopted.

*MR. MARKS said it was not a question of a permissive clause. To put on every borough an absolute obligation to take over the drinking troughs and fountains of the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Troughs Association would certainly be a very strong order. Moreover, the water was to be provided at the expense of the boroughs. There were some honourable Members who had had experience of the methods of the London water companies in their treatment of the wants of man who might be disposed, not unnaturally, to think that they might make some compensation for their treatment of man by supplying this water for the beasts at their own expense; and if such a proposal were made it would certainly receive support from some honourable Members who represented East End constituencies and knew something of the water question there.

MR. JOHN BURNS said the proper way to secure the realisation of the humane and excellent object of the honourable and gallant Member was for all honourable Members who had any influence with water companies—and there were many who had more than he (Mr. Burns) had—to put down at their next board meeting a resolution to the effect that borough councils that applied for permission to have the fountains and troughs under their control should have such water as they required supplied free of charge. If the honourable and gallant Member for Epping and the honourable Member for Peckham would move such a resolution at the next meeting of the West Middlesex or the East London Water Company it would be the best stimulus for the borough councils to discharge these duties they could possibly give them.

Question put—

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 60; Noes, 151. (Division List, No. 155.)

AYES.

Allen, W. (Newc. under Lyme)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herb. Henry
Baker, Sir John
Banbury, Frederick George
Billson, Alfred
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Canston, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness)
Clough, Walter Owen
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Doogan, P. C.
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.

Gunter, Colonel
Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton
Hardy, Laurence
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hazzell, Walter
Horniman, Frederick John
Kimber, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lowles, John
Macaleese, Daniel
McArthur, William (Cornwall)
McLaren, Charles Benjamin
Mendil, Sigismund Ferdinand
Monk, Charles James
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Mount, William George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)

Philipps, John Wynford
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Steadman, William Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Wedderburn, Sir William
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woodhouse, Sir J. (Huddersf'd)
TELLERS for the AYES—Col.
Lockwood and Mr. James
Stuart.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitz Roy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarras, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bethell, Commander
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burns, John
Butcher, John George
Cawley, Frederick
Coel, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasg'w)
Cranborne, Viscount
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Farrell, Sir T. George
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firlank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Rt. Penrose
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.

Forster, Henry William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Garfit, William
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Green, Walford D. (Wendeshury)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hermion-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst'd)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jones, Wm. (Carmarvon-shire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kemp, George
Kenyon, James
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'nsea)
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (L'pool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lough, Thomas
Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lytelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
McAlmont, H. L. B. (Cambs.)
McKillop, James
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Marks, Henry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Moore, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)

Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Grhm. (Bute)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Oldroyd, Mark
Parkes, Ebenezer
Penn, John
Perey, Earl
Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretymann, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
Ryder, John Herliert Dudley
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lanes.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Tallot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tallot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Trevillyan, Charles Philips
Valentia, Viscount
Welster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
Westworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wyndham, George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS for the NOES—Sir
William Walrond and Mr.
Anstruther.

It being after midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Thursday.

SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) BILL
[Lords].

Lords Amendment to Commons Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

POST OFFICE (TELEPHONE EX-
CHANGES).

Return presented,—relative thereto (ordered 16th May; *Mr. Proverb*); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 201.]

QUESTIONS.

THE TRANSVAAL — ARREST OF
BRITISH SUBJECTS.

On the Motion that the House do now adjourn,

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH (Anglesey) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he had heard that certain British subjects had been arrested in the Transvaal for high treason, and whether he could give the House any information on the subject.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I have seen a telegram to that effect from one of the Agencies; but I have no official information of any kind.

Adjourned at ten minutes after
Twelve of the clock

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 17th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

LINCOLN AND EAST COAST RAILWAY
AND DOCK BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read
the third time.

UXBRIDGE AND RICKMANSWORTH
RAILWAY BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read
the third time.

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS GAS
BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM BILL
[Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

RENFREW BURGH AND HARBOUR
EXTENSION BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 12).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional
Orders of the Local Government Board
relating to Bournemouth, Bradford
(Yorks.), and Coventry (two), ordered to
be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and
Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDER (No. 13).

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of
the Local Government Board relating to
the counties of Warwick and Worcester,
ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W.
Russell and Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders
of the Local Government Board relating
to Bournemouth, Bradford (Yorks.), and

Coventry (two)," presented, and read the
first time; to be referred to the Ex-
aminers of Petitions for Private Bills, and
to be printed. [Bill 211.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 13) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders
of the Local Government Board relating
to the counties of Warwick and Wor-
cester," presented, and read the first time;
to be referred to the Examiners of Peti-
tions for Private Bills, and to be printed.
[Bill 212.]

PETITIONS.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872.

Petitions for alteration of Law;—From
Ealing;—Sunderland; and, Leadgate; to
lie upon the Table.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY
LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petitions in favour;—From Darwen;—
and, Swansea; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOT-
LAND) BILL.

Petition from Lochee, in favour; to lie
upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES SERVANTS'
SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petition from Ealing, in favour; to lie
upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Wallaton;—
Newmarket Silkstone;—Nunnery No. 1;—
Whitehaven;—Cambuslang;—Bamfur-
long;—and, Cadeby Main Collieries; to lie
upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Benfieldside, against; to
lie upon the Table.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Petition from Halifax, in favour; to lie
upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON
SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour;—from Chel-
ston;—Kirby Stephen;—Torquay;—
Kingshershwell;—Manchester;—Frenchay;
Great Yarmouth;—and, Aylesbury; to
lie upon the Table.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Castle Douglas, in favour ;
to lie upon the table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE
MARKS.

Paper [presented 16th May] to be
printed. [No. 202.]

PUBLIC REVENUE (AGGREGATE
RECEIPTS).

Return presented,—relative thereto
[ordered 28th April ; Mr. Gibson Bowles] ;
to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order for Second Reading read.

SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.) said he regretted that his honourable friend the Member for South Somerset, who had intended to move the Second Reading of this Bill, was unable to be present owing to illness, and under these circumstances he had been requested to move the Second Reading. As this Bill had not been before the present Parliament, although it had been introduced and passed Second Reading in many Sessions of other Parliaments, it might be convenient, and he thought it was rather important, that he should give a short account of the history of the Bill. It had been introduced no less than ten times in the House of Commons, and it had passed a Second Reading no less than seven times, with very large majorities. He held in his hand a list of those majorities. Since

1887, which was the first year the measure was introduced, there had been majorities in favour of the principle of the Bill varying from 152 to about 100. Although those majorities had decreased in the last year or two he thought he could show that this was not due to any increased strength of the opposition to the Bill, but rather to the fact that the supporters of the Bill regarded its Second Reading as a foregone conclusion, and did not think it necessary to come down to the House to vote. But more than that, this Bill had not only passed a Second Reading with considerable majorities, but it had also gone through the ordeal, in 1887, of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and in 1895, which was the last session of the late Parliament, the measure was not only read a second time, but was also referred to the Grand Committee on Trade, and although it was received with a certain amount of opposition by some members of that Committee, the Bill was reported unamended to the House. He firmly believed that in that year the measure would have passed a third reading had it not been for the fact that the Government found themselves obliged to take up the whole time of the House. He was sorry to say that they had never had the assistance of the Government either from one party or the other with regard to this Bill.

Notice being taken at half past twelve that 40 Members were not present, the House was told by Mr. Speaker, and, 24 Members only being present, Mr. Speaker retired from the Chair until Four of the clock, when the House was again told by Mr. Speaker, and, 34 Members only being present, the House was adjourned by Mr. Speaker without question first put till to-morrow.

Adjourned at Four of the
clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 18th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

KENSINGTON AND NOTTING HILL
ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

MIDLAND AND SOUTH-WESTERN
JUNCTION RAILWAY.

AYR BURGH.

And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1)
[Lords].

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2)
[Lords].

WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION
[Lords].

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

YORKE ESTATE BILL [Lords].

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 163A, relating to Private Bills, he had, on the requisition of the Chairman of Committees, appointed William Howard Winterbotham, Official Solicitor to the Supreme Court of Judicature, as guardian or protector of the infant James Hamilton Langdon Yorke, named in the Bill, to represent such infant before the Committee on the Bill.

STRETTFORD URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

Reported with Amendments.

MOSS SIDE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
(TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

Reported with Amendments.

LOWESTOFT WATER AND GAS BILL
[Lords].

Reported with Amendments.

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WITHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

Reported with Amendments.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL (LONDON) BILL
[Lords].

Reported with Amendments.

WHITEHAVEN CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].

Reported from the Select Committee,
with Amendments.

EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL.

Read 2^d, and committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAM-
WAYS BILL.

Read 2^d, and committed.

GOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
BILL.

Read 2^d, and committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

TENTERDEN RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^d, and passed.

LOUGHBOROUGH CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].

Read 3^d, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN BANKS
GUARANTEE FUND BILL [Lords].

Read 3^d, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

BRIGHTON MARINE PALACE AND
PIER BILL [Lords].

Read 3^d, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

FURNESS RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Read 3^d, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

STRETTFORD GAS BILL [Lords].

Read 3^d, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

PAISLEY AND BARRHEAD DISTRICT
RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Read 3^d, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

2 H

BRIGG URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a and referred to the Examiners.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a and referred to the Examiners.

BELFAST WATER BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a and referred to the Examiners.

BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a and referred to the Examiners.

CORK CORPORATION (FINANCE) BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS) BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

EAST LONDON WATER BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

GREAT WESTERN AND GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

LINCOLN AND EAST COAST RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

MILTON CREEK CONSERVANCY BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE AND FISH-GUARD RAILWAY BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

UXBRIDGE AND RICKMANSWORTH RAILWAY BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

SURREY COMMERCIAL DOCKS BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

HORSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (WATER) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE, CLEVEDON, AND PORTISHEAD TRAMWAYS COMPANY (LIGHT RAILWAY EXTENSIONS) BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

Committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

JONES'S DIVORCE BILL [Lords].

House in Committee (according to order) : An Amendment made : Standing Committee negatived : The Report of Amendment to be received on Thursday the 1st of June next.

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [Lords].

Read 2^a (according to order).

**GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2)
BILL [Lords].**

Read 2^a (according to order).

**WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION
BILL [Lords].**

Read 2^a (according to order).

**ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.**

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a;
to be printed; and referred to the
Examiners. [No. 96.]

**PORTSMOUTH CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].**

MARYPORT HARBOUR BILL [Lords].

**WATERMEN'S AND LIGHTERMEN'S
ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [Lords].**

**WORKINGTON CORPORATION WATER
BILL [Lords].**

**GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY (GENERAL
POWERS) BILL [Lords].**

**SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAM-
ROAD BILL [Lords].**

SOUTHPORT TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY
BILL [Lords].**

**LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN
RAILWAY BILL [Lords].**

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz. :—

M. Hertford,
V. Powerscourt,
L. Farnham,
L. Monck (V. Monck),
L. Herries (chairman);

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Tuesday, 6th of June next, at Eleven of the clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

**METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES
BILL.**

Amendment considered.

EARL CARRINGTON: Lord Tweedmouth has explained the Amendment which stands on the Paper in my name so thoroughly that I will content myself on this occasion by formally moving it:—

Amendment moved, "At end of Clause 2 to add, 'and provided that the total amount of such stock shall not exceed five hundred thousand pounds.'"—(*Earl Carrington.*)

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I promised Lord Tweedmouth that I would communicate with the President of the Local Government Board to find out whether he could see his way to agree to the insertion of these words, and I have done so. I am sorry that the right honourable Gentleman cannot agree to the Amendment. When it was introduced in the House of Commons he fought it tooth and nail, and he says he cannot now eat his words.

EARL CARRINGTON: If the President of the Local Government Board is unable to eat his words, I have not another word to say, except to express my regret that the noble Lord is unable to accept the Amendment. The majority of the electors of London must bow to the inevitable. All that we have been able to do is to make a gallant but somewhat unsuccessful attempt to save the money of the ratepayers in days to come.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I regret that the noble Marquess at the head of the Government is not here to-night. I had cherished the hope, after hearing the speech of the Prime Minister the other evening, that this Amendment would be accepted. The argument of the noble Marquess tended in the direction of showing that the Bill would not do much harm, and that in all probability there would be no further water famine. If this is the case, then I regret that the Amendment has not been accepted, for I am not so sanguine as to expect that there may not be a considerable expenditure entailed.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: The expenditure can only take place in cases of great emergency. There is a second protection—that until seven years have elapsed, if any purchase of the undertakings of these companies takes place, no credit can be given to the companies for any expenditure under this Bill.

EARL CARRINGTON : The Bill leaves a loophole for a great expenditure which the ratepayers of London wish to avoid, and which they will have to pay for in the future.

Amendment negatived.

An Amendment made : Then Standing Order No. 39 considered (according to order), and dispensed with : Bill read 3^d with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

OYSTERS BILL [Lords].

SECOND READING.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD HARRIS : My Lords, I have to ask your Lordships to give a Second Reading to this Bill, which I may, perhaps, describe as another step in the legislative process which endeavours to make more sanitary the surroundings of creatures which supply food for man, and I may point out that there are precedents for legislation of this character in the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act of 1878. There are also several Acts of Parliament which apply to oysters, in particular the Fisheries Act of 1877, which empowered the Board of Trade to prohibit the dredging of oysters on certain banks. The county council or the Local Government Board were empowered to have the water examined in which oysters were laid in order to see whether there were any insanitary conditions affecting them. The causes which rendered it necessary in the opinion of the Government to bring forward this Bill were primarily the grave suspicions that have attached to the oyster of late years. As long ago as 1880 Sir Charles Cameron, the Medical Officer of Health for Dublin, read a paper on the possible relations of typhoid fever to the consumption of polluted oysters, and the risk of sewage contamination to oysters laid down in Dublin Bay. In 1889 cases of enteric in Dublin were regarded as possibly due to oysters. In 1893 an outbreak of cholera in this country raised a very strong suspicion that it was due to oysters, and official representations were made to the Local Government Board in 1894 respecting the condition of storing oysters

in readiness for market. In 1894 also an outbreak of enteric fever at the Wesleyan University, Connecticut, was traced undoubtedly to oysters fattened in an estuary near the outfall of a specifically infected drain. In 1896 the *Académie de Médecine* in Paris received a paper from Dr. Chantemesse dealing with the cause of the outbreak of typhoid in a town in France, and passed a resolution to the effect that the consumption of oysters kept in polluted layings might cause typhoid fever, and demanded that oysters derived from localities known to be contaminated should be deposited for a period of eight days before their sale at some point on the coast washed by pure sea water. In 1898 an outbreak in Essex induced the Local Government Board to cause an inquiry to be made by Dr. Buchanan, who was satisfied that the outbreak was due to oysters which had been taken up from certain layers at a noted town on the Essex coast. In consequence of these suspicions and some representations made by medical men, as well as from the pressure brought to bear by local authorities and dealers in oysters whose trade was seriously affected by these suspicions, the Local Government Board determined in 1895 that its medical department should undertake a comprehensive inquiry into the circumstances in which the oyster was cultivated, and stored around our coast. Dr. Bulstrode examined every one of the oyster beds on the coast of England and Wales. In the course of his investigations he found that in many cases oysters are laid in dangerous proximity to the mouths of drains, where it is possible for the sewage effluent to flow over the oyster bed. In order to prove my case, I will read to your Lordships the description he gives of the conditions under which he found oysters being removed for human consumption. I think it would be only fair that I should not give the names of these places, because this report was made in 1896, and it is possible that in the interval the condition of things may have been improved. The Local Government Board have no information on that point, but we hope it may be so. Writing of one place, Dr. Bulstrode said :

"Several of the merchants possess floating boxes, in which oysters not required for immediate sale are from time to time deposited. These boxes are moored a short distance south of the pier pavilion, one of them at the time of

my visit being 36 yards from the nearest lavatory closet drain pipe, at the foot of which pipe I discovered solid fecal matter."

Of another place Dr. Bulstrode said :

"The storage pits belong to divers owners. The position of each pit is such as to court contamination by sewage of the oysters contained therein. In each instance there is, within a few yards, a drain serving a considerable number of houses."

After describing the discharge of the sewage on the foreshore of the creek, at another place, he says :

"Under these circumstances it is difficult to understand how the oysters near can fail to be polluted thereby. There can be little doubt that the oyster layings near the outfalls are in especial danger of sewage pollution."

Of another place Dr. Bulstrode said :

"These layings for oysters form a close pool of water containing numerous fishing craft ; in other words, it is often a pond 23 acres in extent, containing moveable habitations, each with its own drain."

In describing the arrangements at other places, Dr. Bulstrode said :

"A considerable part of the water passing down the bed of the stream when the tide is out must be composed of sewage, and this cannot fail to pass over some of the oyster layings."

"These drains receive, in some instances, the overflows from cesspools, and they cannot fail to afford substantial risk of contamination to the oysters contained."

"Having regard to the relation of the several outlets in question to the oyster ponds, oysters stored here must be liable, in a high degree, to the danger of sewage pollution. The oyster ponds are in a most improper and unsafe position."

There are three kinds of oysters to be considered—oysters bred in England, oysters imported for the purpose of laying down for fattening, and oysters imported for immediate consumption. Oysters are imported in very large quantities even from America, and consumed without being laid down in English waters. They are imported from France, Portugal and Holland. As regards oysters born and bred in this country, and foreign, oysters, the chief risk is in the case of the layings used as fattening pits and storage ponds, and the same grounds are used for both breeding purposes and for fattening. An investigation was made by Dr. Klein, partly in the ordinary course of a systematic inquiry instituted by the Local Government Board, and especially in furtherance of this oyster inquiry, and he summed up the series of experiments thus :

"It follows therefore from these experiments that oysters from various localities and of divers origin, which are kept for a while in sea water previously infected with culture of the typhoid bacillus, and which remain living and fresh, may and do harbour in their interior the living typhoid bacillus at intervals of four, nine, sixteen, and even 18 days from commencement of experiment, and that the oysters on being opened show no abnormal condition, but appear fresh and quite unaltered. Further, it appears that the typhoid bacillus which was recovered from these oysters, as also from the tank water, retains unimpaired all the characters of the typical typhoid bacillus that was used for the experiment."

Sir William Broadbent, in 1895, announced through one of the principal medical journals of England that

"the evidence of communication of typhoid by means of oysters had come to be of such a character as to produce conviction in his mind."

Professor Conn, in summarising a case of typhoid in Connecticut, says—

"These facts taken together form a chain of evidence practically complete at every point and leaving no room for doubt. Whatever may be said in regard to oysters in general, the Wesleyan outbreak of typhoid was caused by a special lot of contaminated oysters."

And also :

"One thing is sure—the public health is placed in jeopardy when oyster dealers, for the sake of producing plumpness, place oysters in the mouths of fresh water creeks in close proximity to sewers."

Dr. News Holms, Medical Officer of Health for Brighton, has, in his official capacity, reported that cases of enteric in Brighton have, in more than one case, been due to the consumption of oysters. He says :

"The following is the chain of evidence which has enabled the Medical Officer of Health to establish the connection between cases of enteric fever and the consumption of oysters and other shell fish :—(a) Most of the oysters and mussels consumed in Brighton are derived from a particular source, concerning which it is only necessary to quote Dr. Bulstrode's remark—'Sufficient has come to light for the purpose of demonstrating that these particular oyster ponds are in a most improper and unsafe position.'

"(b) Enteric fever is endemic in the population whose drains and cesspools discharge near the oyster ponds and oyster beds in question.

"(c) Sewage-derived organisms were found in the mud of the oyster ponds, and in the interior of oysters obtained from them by Dr. Klein, F.R.S., and by Professor Boyce, of University College, Liverpool.

"(d) In a large proportion of the cases the one person taking oysters or mussels from the above source within three weeks preceding the date of onset of illness is the one person subsequently taken ill with enteric fever.

"(e) When other persons in the same house had eaten shell-fish they had diarrhoea or other evidence of illness, although this did not develop into typical enteric fever."

These are the inquiries and the expert opinions which justify the Local Government Board in introducing this Measure, and they have been urged by an extremely powerful deputation representative of twenty-eight of the largest towns in the kingdom, to introduce some legislation on the subject. The evidence in favour of legislation is overwhelming, and many of those engaged in the oyster trade will welcome it as tending to remove suspicion from their beds. The Bill empowers the county councils to test the water in which oysters are laid, and to prohibit the removal of oysters for ten days if they discover contamination. The owner has an appeal to the Local Government Board, and the Local Government Board has power to act if the County Council fail to do so. There is a very important clause with regard to the importation of oysters, which provides that

"If it is made to appear to Her Majesty in Council that any oyster laying situate in any foreign country or British possession is so situate with reference to an outfall of sewage that there is serious risk of disease being communicated by the consumption of oysters taken from that oyster laying, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty in Council, by order, to prohibit the importation into the United Kingdom of oysters brought from that oyster laying, or from any specified part of that country or possession which includes that laying, except on such terms with respect to the temporary deposit of the oysters or otherwise as may appear to Her Majesty in Council expedient for the purpose of removing the risk of communicating disease."

The Bill applies to Scotland and Ireland with certain modifications. There is, in my opinion, sufficient evidence to show that there is a demand for legislation of this kind, and I trust that the Bill will be accepted. I do not wish to hurry it through, but the President of the Local Government Board desires that it should be read a second time so that there may be an opportunity of considering it before the Committee stage.

Bill read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

MONEY LENDING BILL [Lords].

THIRD READING.

Bill read 3^a (according to order).
Lord Harris.

LORD LUDLOW: My Lords, I move to insert after "Provided that nothing in the foregoing provisions of this Bill shall affect the rights of any *bona fide* assignee or holder for value," the words "without notice." I think my noble friend, the Chancellor of the Duchy, approves of this Amendment.

Amendment moved, in Clause 2, Subsection 4, to add at end of clause "without notice."—(*Lord Ludlow.*)

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I accept the Amendment, which strengthens the Bill.

Amendment agreed to.

VISCOUNT KNOTSFORD: Since the clause defining "money-lenders" has been revised and very much improved, a case has been brought to my notice, and, I think, to the notice of the noble and learned Lord the Chancellor of the Duchy, of a society which has power given to it by a private Act of Parliament to lend money; and it is thought, and I believe, rightly thought, that a society which is incorporated for one purpose and subsequently has its powers enlarged by the Act of Parliament, and power given to it to lend money, ought not to come within the definition. I therefore move the Amendment which stands in my name.

Amendment moved, in Clause 7, page 4, after line 3, insert—

(c) "Any body corporate, incorporated or empowered (before the passing of this Act), by a Special Act of Parliament to lend money in accordance with such Special Act; or"—(*Viscount Knutsford.*)

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I believe the society referred to is the only one existing under the same conditions. It has power by Act of Parliament to lend money under certain conditions and ought to be protected. I accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS BILL [Lords].

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Friday the 9th of June next.

PARISH COUNCILLORS (TENURE OF OFFICE) BILL.

Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Friday the 2nd of June next.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

LICENSING (DISQUALIFICATION OF JUSTICES REMOVAL) BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.

First Report from the Select Committee considered (according to order), and agreed to.

MARINE INSURANCE BILL [Lords].

A Bill for codifying the law relating to Marine Insurance—was presented by the Lord Chancellor; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 97.)

COMPANIES BILL [Lords].

Report from the Select Committee (with Proceedings of the Committee) made, and to be printed. No. 98; Bill reported with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the whole House; and to be printed as amended. (No. 99.)

House adjourned at ten minutes past five of the clock, to Thursday the 1st of June next, a quarter past four of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 18th May 1899.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (CODE OF REGULATIONS FOR DAY SCHOOLS).

The Comptroller of the Household reported Her Majesty's Answer to the Address of the 17th day of April, as followeth:—

"I have received your Address praying Me to withhold My consent to the new portions of Articles 37 and 42, on pages 90 and 91 of the Code of Regulations for Day Schools, which was presented to you on the 21st of March last,

I will comply with your advice."

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

HORSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (WATER) BILL.

Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL.

(Queen's Consent signified),—read the third time, and passed.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

GREAT WESTERN AND GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

(Queen's Consent signified),—read the third time, and passed.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

(Queen's Consent signified),—read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

LINCOLN AND EAST COAST RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL.

Ordered, That, in the case of the Lincoln and East Coast Railway and Dock Bill, Standing Order 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed.

UXBRIDGE AND RICKMANSWORTH RAILWAY BILL.

Ordered, That, in the case of the Uxbridge and Rickmansworth Railway

Bill, Standing Order 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

MILITARY LANDS PROVISIONAL ORDER.

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Secretary of State under The Military Lands Act, 1892, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Wyndham and Mr. Hanbury.

MILITARY LANDS PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

"To confirm a Provisional Order of the Secretary of State under the Military Lands Act, 1892," presented accordingly and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 213.)

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS.

Copy ordered "of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill" (Mr. Ritchie). Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 204.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table; Bill to be read the third time to-morrow.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table; Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table; Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 8) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table; Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

WOKING WATER AND GAS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION MARKETS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

HULL, BARNSELY, AND WEST RIDING JUNCTION RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL [Lords].

Reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

ST. ALBANS GAS BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

NORFOLK ESTUARY BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table; Bill to be read the third time.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Reported, with an Amended Title (Provisional Order relating to Ystradyfodwg (Maerdy) not confirmed; remaining Orders confirmed); report to lie upon the Table. Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP J).

Sir Henry Fletcher reported from the Committee on Group J of Private Bills, that the parties opposing the Airdrie and Coatbridge Water Bill (Lords) had stated that the evidence of James Wilson, Chairman of the Airdrie and Coatbridge Water Company, was essential to their case; and it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said James Wilson do attend the said Committee on Wednesday, the 7th of June, at 12 o'clock.

Ordered, that James Wilson do attend the Committee on Group J of Private Bills on Wednesday, the 7th of June, at 12 o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP J).

Sir Henry Fletcher reported from the Committee on Group J of Private Bills, that for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday, the 6th of June, at half-past 11 of the clock. Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.**FIRMS REGISTRATION BILL.**

Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

GROCERS' LICENCES (SCOTLAND) ABOLITION BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petition from Luton, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Annesley ; —Aberbeeg ; —Llanhilleth ; —Aldridge ; —Ashmore ; —Walsall Wood ; —Brownhills ; —Holly Bank ;—and, Digby Collieries ; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from London, against ; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

Petitions against establishment ;—From Cambuslang ;—and, Dumbarton ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Liverpool ; —Middlesbrough ;—and, Bolton ; to lie upon the Table.

SHOPS BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, against ; to lie upon the Table.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, against ; to lie upon the Table.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL.

Petition from London, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, against ; to lie upon the Table.

TEMPERANCE REFORM (THREEFOLD OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

FREE TRADE.

Petition for reciprocity in Free Trade ; of Charles Whitmore Stokes, silk manufacturer, London ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.**PUBLIC REVENUE (AGGREGATE RECEIPTS).**

Return [presented 17th May] to be printed. (No. 203.)

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented,—of Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland providing for the distribution of the sum available for Secondary Education under Section 2 (1) of The Education and Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1892, [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented,—of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 18th May, 1899, as to the application of Article 21 and Chapter IX. of the Code of 1899 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889, LOCAL TAXATION (CUSTOMS AND EXCISE) ACT, 1890, EDUCATION AND LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1892, AND AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS, AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1896.

Copy presented,—of Returns, showing the Total Payments into and out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account for the Financial Years 1896-7 and 1897-8 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

NAVIGATION AND SHIPPING.

Copy presented,—of Annual Statement of Navigation and Shipping of the United Kingdom for the year 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

**SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE
ACT (IRELAND), 1877.**

Copy presented,—of Order in Council, dated 13th May, 1899, giving effect to additional Rules of Court [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Copy presented,—of Thirty-seventh Report of the Royal Commissioners [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented,—of Report, No. 259 (Bermuda, Annual Report for 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

Copy presented,—of Correspondence relating to the Explosives Monopoly in the South African Republic [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EGYPT (No. 4, 1899).

Copy presented,—of Return showing the Expenditure for Military Operations in the Soudan charged on the Public Revenues of the United Kingdom since January 1883 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

1. Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 18th May, 1899, as to the application of Article 21 and Chapter IX. of the Code of 1899.

2. Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, providing for the distribution of the sum available for Secondary Education under Section 2 (1) (b) of the Education and Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1892.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Thirty-seventh Report of the Royal Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund, 1899.

NAVIGATION AND SHIPPING.

Annual Statement of Navigation and Shipping of the United Kingdom, for the year 1898.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889; LOCAL TAXATION (CUSTOMS AND EXCISE) ACT, 1890; EDUCATION AND LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1892.

Summaries of the total payments into and out of the Local Taxation (Scotland)

Account, for the financial years 1896-97 and 1897-98.

EGYPT, No. 4 (1899).

Return showing the expenditure for Military operations in the Soudan charged on the Public Revenues of the United Kingdom since January, 1883.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

Correspondence relating to the Explosives Monopoly in the South African Republic.

COLONIES (ANNUAL)—No. 259. BERMUDA: ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

**SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE
ACT (IRELAND), 1877.**

Order in Council, dated 13th May, 1899, giving effect to additional rules of court.

**PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE
MARKS.**

Sixteenth Report of the Comptroller-General, with Appendices, for the year 1898; laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table.

QUESTIONS.

MILITIA SERVICE ABROAD.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke, Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether, under the provisions of The Reserve Forces and Militia Act, 1898, when 75 per cent. of the men of a Militia battalion volunteer for service abroad, such men as do not volunteer for Foreign service can be compelled to proceed with their battalion, although the terms of their enlistment only bind them to serve at home.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. GEORGE WYNDHAM, Dover): I am obliged to the honourable and gallant Member for giving me an opportunity of correcting my statement of 3rd March. The Army Orders based on 61 and 62 Vict. c. 9 and 45 and 46 Vict. c. 48 give no powers over the 25 per cent. who do not volunteer,

THE KARENI EXPEDITION.

*CAPTAIN CHALONER (Wilts, Westbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War when it is proposed to grant a medal and other reward to the troops engaged in the Kareni Expedition, in which a large number of British officers and non-commissioned officers were killed or wounded.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The report of the officer in command of the expedition has not yet reached the War Office. When it is received the question of rewards will be considered.

OVERTIME AT GOVERNMENT FACTORIES.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Herts, Hertford): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he could see his way to give the men employed at Waltham, Enfield, and Woolwich the option of working overtime in order to make up for the loss of pay occasioned by the closing of the factories on Whit Monday and Whit Tuesday.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): Recourse to overtime is an undesirable expedient, and is resorted to only in cases of urgency. The practice in question has been abandoned since 1894, with a single exception in the Jubilee year, and the Secretary of State does not propose to revert to it.

BRIGADE COMMANDS.

MR. CUBITT (Surrey, Reigate): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in connection with the new arrangements for the commands of volunteer infantry brigades, it is proposed to divide those brigades which are now composed of battalions drawn from more than one regimental district; and, in these joint brigades, what course it is proposed to pursue with regard to members of the brigade staffs other than the brigadier either in the case of division or otherwise.

*MR. WYNDHAM: There is no present intention to make the areas of Volunteer brigades coincide with the areas of Regimental Districts. The difficulty suggested by the honourable Member will be dealt with in accordance with the circumstances of each case. In reply to the

second paragraph, the duties of Brigade Major will be performed by an officer on the Depôt Staff whenever such an arrangement can be conveniently made.

FUZE MANUFACTURE AT ENFIELD.

CAPTAIN BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office, that, as £4,673 has been expended on plant for manufacture of fuze bodies at Enfield, and as the cost of manufacture compares favourably with Woolwich, for what reason has a notice to discontinue the manufacture been given.

MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS: The arrangements for the manufacture of fuze bodies at Enfield and Woolwich are still under consideration.

CONVEYANCE OF VOLUNTEERS ON RAILWAYS.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the understanding arrived at with the railway companies as to the conveyance of Volunteers to camp on Saturdays has worked satisfactorily.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am sorry to say that although the majority of the railway companies consented to fulfil the requirements of the Volunteer corps, in two cases recently companies failed to do so. The Midland Railway have declined to run special trains on the 5th August to convey Volunteer battalions of the Western Brigade to Bournemouth, and the arrangements made by the North Western Railway have necessitated the arrival of two Lancashire battalions at Conway on Whit Sunday.

MR. MALCOLM: Is there any redress obtainable?

*MR. WYNDHAM: I think not. But the Great Western Railway Company quite recently assented to the request of the Secretary of State.

THE GUARDS BATTALIONS.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what are the circumstances which made it permissible in the public interest to furnish the House with full particulars as to the age and services of

the men of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards on the 17th March last, and which make it impossible in the public interest to furnish similar particulars with regard to men serving in the 2nd Battalion of the same regiment on 1st May last; and will he explain why the Government have now for the first time withheld information of this kind from Parliament.

MR. WYNDHAM: Perhaps the honourable Member will allow me to answer this question by stating the policy which governs the granting of particulars as to age and service. Such information has not been given for all units except at long intervals and on exceptional grounds; when, for example, our system as a whole has been under consideration, as in the report of Lord Wantage's Committee, or when an extensive reform has been newly sanctioned by the House, as in the case of the Return granted last year. The only other precedent was in 1879. But to enable the House to follow the progress made in raising new battalions the Secretary of State will grant these particulars in respect of the regiments to which battalions are being added.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Will the honourable Gentleman answer the question as to the distinction between the first and second battalions?

MR. WYNDHAM: No, sir. The honourable Member stated that part of his question in terms which admit of no answer.

INDIAN FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state when the financial statement, with the proceedings thereon, in the Viceroy's Legislative Council will be placed in the hands of Members.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): In order to save the expense of reprinting, it was arranged last year that copies of the financial statement, with the proceedings in the Legislative Council thereon, should be despatched from India for the use of Members of the House. I have ascertained that the requisite supply is on its way to England, and may be ex-

Mr. Arnold-Forster.

pected to be in the hands of Members by about the end of the Whitsuntide recess.

COST OF TROOPS IN INDIA.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state what number of the 258,010, appearing on the Estimates for 1899-1900 as forming the regular Army, are at the present time stationed in India, and are paid for out of the Indian Revenue; and what is the total amount charged to India on account of the troops referred to.

LORD G. HAMILTON: Of the 256,010 men appearing on the Estimates for 1899-1900 as forming the regular Army, 73,157 are on the Indian establishment, and the whole of their pay, food, clothing, and other charges, including transport to and from India, is defrayed from Indian revenues. The Estimates do not admit of an accurate separation of the charges under all heads, for the European and the Native forces; but in a return given to Parliament a few years ago (No. 20, of 1894) Rs. 891 was given as the average annual cost of a British soldier in India. Taking this rate, the cost of those men would be about 650 lakhs of rupees, or (at 1s. 4d. the rupee) £4,333,000. Perhaps the rate may now be somewhat higher. This is exclusive of a payment of £548,700 (or £7 10s. per head) to the War Office for depot and recruiting charges in this country, and of the cost of deferred pay and pensions.

BOMBAY INSOLVENCY COURT.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he could state what is the total cost of the establishment maintained by the clerk of the Insolvency Court, at Bombay, out of his fees; and, if, as stated by the Secretary of State for India, the clerk pays the cost of the establishment out of his fees, he could explain why Rs.4,438 per annum is shown in the Civil Estimates, 1897-8, Vol. II., Bombay, page 78, as paid by the Government for the establishment of the clerk of the Insolvency Court.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The total cost of the establishment maintained by the clerk of the Insolvency Court at Bombay out of his fees was stated in 1895 at Rs.2,194 per annum. This is in addition to

the sum of Rs.4,374 (in 1895) contributed by Government. I did not state in my previous answer that the clerk paid the cost of the whole establishment out of his fees. What I said was that out of the fees he receives "he meets certain charges for establishment."

OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE AT BOMBAY.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, whether he is aware that the official assignee in Bombay is paid by commissions and fees, averaging about Rs.3,000 per mensem, and the cost of his establishment, about Rs.3,200 per annum, is paid by Government; and, whether, considering that the Finance Committee of 1886 recommended, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice, that the salary of the official assignee should be Rs.1,000 per mensem, and that the commissions and fees should be credited to Government, he is now prepared to give effect to that recommendation.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I believe it is true that for the three years ending in January, 1894, the average receipts of the official assignee were about Rs.3,000 per mensem, but this was owing to exceptional circumstances. In the year 1895-6 the average receipts were only Rs.1,125 per mensem. I cannot at such short notice give in detail the reasons why the recommendations of the Finance Committee have not been acted upon; but I think it probable that the matter has been held over pending the passing into law of the Insolvency Bill, which has only recently been abandoned; on this as on the other similar matter about which the honourable Baronet questioned me on the 11th instant, I will communicate with the Government of Bombay.

CHITRAL.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, whether it has been decided to reduce the garrison at Chitral; whether he will consider the advisability of withdrawing this garrison altogether from Chitral and Gilgit; and, if he could state what saving would be effected by such withdrawal.

LORD G. HAMILTON: My answer to the first clause of this question is in the affirmative. As to the possibility of with-

drawing the garrison altogether, I can only say that no proposal of that kind is before me, nor can I give any undertaking of the kind which the honourable Baronet desires. I am not able, without a reference to India, to state accurately what saving would be effected by such withdrawal.

INDIAN SUGAR IMPORTS.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is yet in a position to give the House the figures for the imports of sugar into India for the 12 months ending March, 1899, specifying the different countries of origin.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have as yet received from India no trade statistics later than those for February, 1899; but I expect to receive the final volume for the financial year in the course of a week or a fortnight.

SIERRA LEONE.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies what was the whole number of the natives who were recently tried on capital charges in Sierra Leone; how many of these were left without professional assistance in their defence, how many of the undefended prisoners were convicted, and how many have been executed; whether it is the long-established practice of the Colonial Office to provide natives tried on capital charges with professional assistance; if so, why was this practice departed from in the recent cases; and, why was not Chief Doonahay afforded an opportunity of obtaining funds for his defence.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I understand that 229 natives were tried; of these 77 were undefended, of whom 62 were convicted, and of these 33 were executed. The Colonial Government endeavoured in every case to obtain counsel for the prisoners, but the local practitioners were unwilling to be engaged and it was found impossible to provide for the defence in all cases. It does not appear that Doonahay (not Doonahay) expressed any desire to obtain funds for his defence.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): May I ask if interpreters were employed to explain to the accused the evidence brought against them?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no doubt interpreters were employed, but if a positive reply is wanted the honourable Member must put a question upon the Paper.

SIR W. LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): With what were the prisoners charged?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: With murder under circumstances of the grossest character.

MR. PICKERSGILL: Why did the local practitioners object to appear for the prisoners?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The local practitioners were natives, and they declined to appear, but why I cannot say.

BRITISH SUBJECTS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether British subjects in the Transvaal can acquire the rights of citizenship in the South African Republic without thereby forfeiting their allegiance to Her Majesty and all their privileges as British subjects; and, if so, whether Her Majesty's Government will use their influence with the British Uitlanders to dissuade them from abandoning their allegiance to the British Crown.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer to the first question is contained in Lord Ripon's despatch, p. 92, C. 7,933, and is in the negative. Her Majesty's Government have never dissuaded Her Majesty's subjects from obtaining naturalisation in foreign countries where they intend to reside.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: Have the Government ever taken any steps in the matter either way?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No; certainly not.

THE TRANSVAAL DYNAMITE CONCESSION.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that Mr. Westlake, Q.C., and other leading internationalist jurists are of opinion that the Transvaal Dynamite Concession is not an infringement of the London Convention; whether he sought any and what legal advice before complaining of the Concession as contravening the Convention; and, whether Her Majesty's present and every former Government acquiesced in the Concession without complaint from its original grant in 1882 until after the Jameson Raid in 1896; and, if not, when complaint was first made.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have observed a letter in the *Spectator* from Mr. Westlake to this effect. The action of Her Majesty's Government was taken upon the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown. Her Majesty's Government were not made aware at the time of the first Concession in 1882 and are now not aware of its terms. The Concession granted in 1887 was brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Government in 1891, and upon this, representations were made to the Government of the South African Republic and the Concession was cancelled. The present monopoly dates from 1893 and is nominally a State monopoly. The reasons why Her Majesty's Government have only recently protested against it are given in the Papers shortly to be distributed.

MR. COURTNEY (Bodmin): Can the right honourable Gentleman say when discovery was made of the last arrangement?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Perhaps the right honourable Gentleman will put that question down.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): How soon will the Papers be distributed?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Circumstances change so quickly that I have some difficulty. I hoped to distribute them after Whitsuntide, but I am afraid now they may be some time.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: Can the right honourable Gentleman say when complaint was first made?

No answer was given.

THE BLOEMFONTEIN CONFERENCE.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can give the House any information in regard to the proposed conference between President Kruger and Sir A. Milner.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The President of the Orange Free State has invited Sir Alfred Milner to Bloemfontein to meet President Kruger. Sir A. Milner, with my approval, has accepted the invitation with the earnest hope of arriving at a satisfactory settlement, and as a proof of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to maintain cordial relations with the South African Republic, and the meeting will take place for the purpose of discussing the situation and with a view of arriving at such an arrangement as Her Majesty's Government could accept and recommend to the Uitlander population as a reasonable concession to their just demands, and a settlement of the difficulties which have threatened the good relations which Her Majesty's Government desire should constantly exist between themselves and the Government of the South African Republic. I understand that President Kruger has stated that the terms of Sir A. Milner's reply go further than his intention, but that he remains disposed to go to Bloemfontein and will gladly discuss every proposal in a friendly way that can conduce to a good understanding between the South African Republic and England, and to the maintenance of peace in South Africa, provided that the independence of the Republic is not impugned. I understand that the meeting will probably take place on Tuesday the 30th May.

PEKIN-HANKAU RAILWAY.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (York, W.R., Barnsley): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state, either exactly or approximately, the point at which the railway now under construction from Peking to Hankau will enter the area referred to as the basin of the Yang-tze in the Anglo-Russian Agreement.

(Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The railway from Peking to Hankau will enter the area referred to at the basin of the Yang-tze in the Anglo-Russian Agreement at the point in the province of Honan where it crosses the watershed of the Yang-tze.

THE YANG-TSZE BASIN.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government will take steps to secure the delimitation of the northern boundary of the basin of the Yang-tze, referred to in the Anglo-Russian Agreement.

MR. BRODRICK: As already stated by me in this House, the Yang-tze basin has been defined as the provinces bordering on the river and Honan and Chekiang. No delimitation appears necessary.

DUTIES ON IMPORTS INTO CHINA.

MR. MOON (St. Pancras, N.): On behalf of the honourable Member for Chester I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether goods imported into China by rail from Port Arthur and from that portion of Talienwan which is to be reserved for the exclusive use of Russian and Chinese ships will come under Clause 3, section (H), Sub-sections (c) and (d), of the Agreement between Russia and China for the construction of the Manchurian Railway, which provide that goods imported from Russia into China by rail shall pay an import Chinese duty to the extent of one-third less as compared with the duty imposed at Chinese seaport custom-houses and if destined for conveyance inland shall in such case be subject to payment of transit duty to the extent of one-half of the import duty levied on them, which payment shall free them from any additional imposts; and, whether, seeing that the charge for transit duty, in addition to the five per cent. Customs duty on British goods imported into the interior of China through the Treaty Ports is two and a half per cent. *ad valorem*, the result of the concession made to Russia will be to give Russian goods imported into China by rail from Port Arthur or the Russian portion of Talienwan an advantage of two and a half per cent. *ad valorem* over British goods imported into the interior of China through the Treaty Ports.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*MR. BRODRICK : Her Majesty's Government are not aware that the Russian Government have claimed for goods which may be imported into China by rail from Port Arthur and from that portion of Talienwan which is to be reserved for the exclusive use of Russian and Chinese ships the advantages conferred by the subsections mentioned. Enquiry will be made at Pekin as to the truth of the report. If those advantages were given to the goods in question the result would be as stated by the honourable Member.

TALIENWAN.

MR. MOON : On behalf of the honourable Member for Chester I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a competent police administration has yet been established at Talienwan ; and, if so, whether passports can now be dispensed with as promised by Count Mouravieff on the 15th June last.

*MR. BRODRICK : Her Majesty's Government have not yet heard of the establishment of a competent police administration at Talienwan.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Customs service for the purpose of organising which the Russian Chargé d'Affaires left Pekin on the 22nd June last, has yet been established ; and if so, whether part of Talienwan will be opened to foreign trade, as promised by Count Mouravieff on the 15th June last.

*MR. BRODRICK : Her Majesty's Government have not yet heard of the establishment of a Customs service at Talienwan, but they await a further communication from the Russian Government.

DISTRESS AT VAN.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government are able to confirm the statements made on the authority of the Commissioners of the Grosvenor House Committee in Kurdistan, that the supply of grain in the vilayet of Van is practically in the hands of a syndicate of merchants, who by hoarding the grain are artificially

raising prices ; and whether, in view of the distress prevailing in that province amongst the agricultural population, the British Ambassador at Constantinople has been able to induce the Turkish Government to adopt remedial measures at Van.

*MR. BRODRICK : Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van has mentioned in despatches the hoarding of wheat by local merchants in the hopes of a further rise in price, and he reported in February that the Vali had forced the sale of these stores of wheat. Her Majesty's Ambassador lost no time in calling the attention of the Turkish Foreign Minister to the distress in the vilayet of Van, and expressed his hope that the necessary assistance would be afforded. In March Captain Maunsell reported that the Government had allotted a sum of £2,000 for the distribution of seed in the vilayet, that a mixed Commission had been appointed, and that relief work was progressing favourably.

OUTRAGE ON A BRITISH MISSIONARY AT FUNCHAL.

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British Consul at Funchal, Madeira, has been called upon to report on the alleged outrage said to have been committed upon a British missionary (Mr. Jefferd) in April last, at the instigation of the Roman Catholic vicar of San Antonio, who is reported to have harangued a mob of some thousand persons, and as a consequence a body of some 200 men, with swords and knives and stones, proceeded to attack the residence of the missionary in question, one of the inmates being stabbed, and Mr. Jefferd being compelled to hide himself to save his life ; whether the British Consul at Funchal has been appealed to by the friends of Mr. Jefferd for protection, but in vain ; and, whether Her Majesty's Secretary of State has made any representations to the Portuguese Government for redress ; and, meanwhile, will instructions be sent to the Consul to afford all the protection in his power to safeguard the missionary from further molestation.

*MR. BRODRICK : On news of this case reaching Her Majesty's Government Her Majesty's Consul at Funchal was at

once instructed to report upon it, and from the statement which he sent home it appears that he took all proper steps for the protection of Mr. Jefferd. He will naturally continue to afford him his protection. In reply to representations made by Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon the Portuguese Government have stated that one of the rioters was at once arrested, and that steps have been taken for the prosecution of any others who can be traced. Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon has further received instructions to draw the attention of the Portuguese Government to the language used by the Roman Catholic vicar of San Antonio in his address previous to the attack on Mr. Jefferd, which, if correctly reported, appears to be a direct incitement to murderous assault.

RUSSIAN DEMANDS ON CHINA.

MR. GRETTON (Derbyshire, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs a question of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether he can give any further information with regard to the demand made by Russia for a concession to construct a railway to Peking.

*MR. BRODRICK: We have been making inquiry, but we have not yet been able to ascertain what course it is proposed that the line should follow.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT STAFF.

COLONEL DALBIAC (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether two of the personal clerks likely to be promoted to the staff of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade are receiving £140 per annum, whereas established abstractors of nearly 20 years' service are receiving but £110; and, whether, if these promotions are sanctioned, these men will receive the same salaries they are now receiving, on promotion, viz., £140 per annum; and, if so, will he provide that the men now on the establishment, of longer service, shall receive the same rate of pay.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): Two personal clerks in the Labour Department of the Board of Trade are about to be placed on the establishment at their existing salaries of £140. I cannot properly enter into comparisons between

the relative merits of officers in the Department, which is a very large one. These merits are carefully weighed whenever promotions or appointments are considered. The answer to the last part of the question is "No."

COMPANIES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

MR. FAITHFULL BEGG (Glasgow St. Rollox): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can now state when the Companies Acts Amendment Bill will be brought down to this House for consideration.

MR. RITCHIE: No, sir, the Select Committee on the Bill have not yet finished their labours.

POSTMEN'S LEAVE.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, is he aware that it is very difficult for officers of the Postmen's Federation at Edinburgh to obtain special leave of absence to attend to business of the Federation elsewhere; whether the Controller at Edinburgh or the Secretary for Scotland has the power to grant leave without the consent of the Secretary in London; whether he is aware that a man who applied on the 31st March last for leave on the 7th and 8th April received no reply till the night of the 7th, one of the days asked for being then past; and, whether he will make inquiries into the case.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The Postmaster-General is not aware of the great difficulty referred to. On the contrary, whenever special leave to attend the meetings of the Postmen's Federation is asked for it is allowed, provided no inconvenience is caused to the public service. Such applications are referred to headquarters in London for sanction. The postman Holmes who applied for special leave for the 7th and 8th ultimo to proceed to Glasgow to audit the accounts of the *Postmen's Gazette*, was given leave, but his application could not be dealt with immediately; and the authority was sent by telegraph on the 7th ultimo. I may point out also that the Easter holidays intervened.

SUB-POSTMASTERS AND RURAL POSTMEN.

MR. STEADMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether it is in accordance with the rules of the Department for a rural postman to act as assistant to a sub-postmaster situated at the outward end of his journey, especially if the assistance can be rendered without interference with the postman's duty and during the period of waiting before commencing his return journey.

MR. HANBURY: The rules of the Department do not forbid a rural postman to render assistance to a sub-postmaster in his private business so long as it does not interfere with the proper performance of his own duty. It is not, however, desirable that any part of the official duty assigned to a sub-postmaster should be performed by a rural postman as the foreman has to keep an exact check over everything done.

MR. STEADMAN: May I ask if a sub-postmaster can compel a rural postman to assist him in his private business without payment.

MR. HANBURY: I should certainly say not.

SEVEN DAY NEWSPAPERS.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether he is aware of the recent action of the Highways Committee of the London County Council in ceasing to advertise on behalf of the Council in the *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mail*; if his attention has been drawn to a unanimous resolution of the Battersea Vestry in which they deprecated the issue of seven-day newspapers as being fraught with serious industrial consequences to the working classes, and therefore determined to discontinue the purchase of those papers for the libraries of the parish until their Sunday issue ceases, and to affix copies of the resolution in the places of those papers in their public libraries; and, whether, in view of this and the similar action of other public bodies, and further, with the object of giving practical effect to the approval expressed by the Home Secretary on the part of the Government to the deputation which he received protesting against a seven-day

issue of newspapers, he will consider the propriety of discontinuing all Government advertisements in these papers. I may mention that since I put this question on the Paper it has become inapplicable to the *Daily Mail*, owing to the proprietor having ceased the Sunday issue. May I point out, with reference to the action of public bodies upon this question, that such action has seriously diminished the circulation of the *Daily Telegraph*.

MR. HANBURY: It does not rest with the Treasury, but with the responsible heads of the Departments concerned, to make a final selection of the newspapers in which their advertisements shall appear. I can only say that, if the circulation of any seven-day paper should diminish in consequence of the withdrawal of advertisements, the question of employing it for Treasury advertisements might have to be re-considered.

COST OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK ADMINISTRATION.

SIR JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, what is the cost per £100 of deposits of the management of the Savings Bank Department.

MR. HANBURY: The rate per cent. of expenses of management of the Post Office Savings Bank to the total amount standing to the credit of depositors was in 1897 7s. 9½d., if the amount expended on buildings during the year be included, and 7s. 6¾d. if that amount be omitted, but interest thereon added at the rate of 5 per cent. The rate per cent. of expenses of management for the year 1898 cannot yet be stated, but will, it is estimated, be slightly less than in 1897.

METROPOLITAN POLICE—LODGINGS FOR MARRIED CONSTABLES.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the Home Secretary in 1890 stated that he was giving consideration to the question of lodgings for the married men of the Metropolitan police stationed in the highly-rented inner divisions; and, whether, seeing that since 1890 the difficulty and expense of obtaining lodgings in a respectable neighbourhood has greatly increased, he will make renewed

efforts with a view to giving some relief to police constables, who, owing to the nature of their duties, are unable to take advantage of the cheaper rents prevailing in certain suburban districts.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancs, Blackpool): I am aware that my predecessor considered the question referred to, and stated that he was doing so, but he did not see his way to take any action in the direction indicated by the honourable and gallant Member, and I am afraid I find myself in the same position.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

MR. J. WALTON: On behalf of the honourable Member for the Northampton Division, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that, among other doctors of indemnity societies, one Dr. Macphail, of Barnsley, especially assumes that he has power, under the Compensation Act, 1897, to insist upon patients submitting themselves for examination at his office or surgery at Barnsley, and in cases where workmen have been injured, writes to them that they must so attend on certain days and at certain times; whether this or any other doctor can, under the Act, order any injured workman to attend his office or surgery for the purpose of examination, seeing that he is simply an insurance or an indemnity association officer; and, if such action on the part of a doctor is a violation of the Act, what steps he will take to prevent such practices in future.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have not heard of the case referred to. I presume that the honourable Member is referring to cases in which a workman has given notice of an accident or is in receipt of a weekly payment. In these cases the Act requires a workman to "submit himself for examination" by a medical practitioner provided by the employer or by an insurance society. It is impossible for me to lay down any general rule as to when and how this obligation should be fulfilled, and I have no power to interfere in the matter.

THE PEN TRADE.

MR. J. G. TALBOT (Oxford University): I beg to ask the Secretary of

State for the Home Department whether he has received applications for the making of an order for particulars (under the Act (58 & 59 Vict., c. 37) relating to the pen trade; and, if so, whether he is prepared favourably to consider such applications.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have not received any such application; but in consequence of complaints which reached the inspectors inquiries are now being made with regard to "particulars" in the pen trade.

FRUIT PRESERVING INDUSTRY.

MR. J. G. TALBOT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can hold out hopes that a measure dealing with the fruit preserving industry, on which he has declared legislation to be necessary, will be introduced during the present session.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I am afraid that I can only say that a measure has been prepared which embraces amendments of the Factory Law relating to the fruit preserving industry; but in the present state of public business I can make no definite statement with regard to it.

TREATMENT OF FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education what progress has been made with the Bill dealing with feeble-minded children which he stated to be in course of preparation, and when it will be introduced.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The Bill referred to by the honourable Member is in an advanced state of preparation. I am unable to say when it will be introduced.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM STAFF.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the Civil Service examination announced to be held on 13th December last, to fill a vacancy in the position of assistant in the South Kensington Museum (Art Branch), was actually held; and, if so, who the

successful candidates were and why the usual announcement of the result was not published in the *Gazette*; and in case such examination was not held, will he explain whether, and how, the vacancy in question was filled up.

SIR JOHN GORST: I understand that the examination announced for the 13th December was held by the Civil Service Commissioners, and that on the result of it the vacancy in the position of assistant in the South Kensington Museum was filled. I have no information as to who the other candidates were, or why the result was not published in the *Gazette*.

CONSTITUTION HILL.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.): On behalf of the honourable Member for Cheltenham I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if his attention has been called to the condition of Constitution Hill almost nightly after dusk, and if he can see his way to improve the lighting of this thoroughfare, and to have the police supervision increased.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): According to the statement I made in the discussion on the Estimates, my attention has been given to the matter of improved lighting on Constitution Hill, and my honourable and gallant friend will see that new lamps have already been put up there. The question of police supervision is not under my control, but I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that there is a constable on duty at night at each end of the road and also in the middle, whilst a mounted officer is continually on patrol duty.

SCOTTISH BAIT SUPPLIES.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the Scottish line fishermen have for some years suffered much loss and inconvenience from want of a cheap and plentiful supply of mussels for bait; and that in 1898, as compared with 1897, the supply of mussels from Scottish beds has declined by about 30 per cent.; and whether, looking to the cost, waste, and inconvenience involved in bringing mussels from the Continent, the Government will take such steps as will enable local mussel beds to be established, as

Mr. Maurice Healy.

contemplated in Section 13 of the Sea Fisheries Regulation (Scotland) Act, 1895, to supply in each locality the bait without which this national industry cannot be carried on.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. G. MURRAY, Buteshire): I am informed by the Fishery Board that the supply is not the sole determining factor in accounting for the diminution referred to in the question. The demand for bait is at least an equally contributory cause, and that varies according to the success of the white fishing for which the bait is required, and according to the supply of fresh herrings which, as bait, is preferred to mussels, the latter seldom being used when the former can be obtained. With reference to the importation of foreign mussels, the quantity imported has been falling off for some time. Within the last three years there has been a decrease of over 40 per cent. The Board up to the present time have done all they can to enable local mussel beds to be established, but it must be borne in mind that few localities round the coast of Scotland lend themselves to the cultivation of mussels.

DR. LAMONT.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the Sheriff Clerk Depute at Lochmaddy, in reply to a letter from Dr. Lamont's agent desiring to know whether the warrant for Dr. Lamont's arrest, dated 10th September, 1898, was signed on the date it bears, has replied, acknowledging receipt, and begging to refer the writer to the Crown Office; whether the warrant dated 10th September, 1898, was actually signed on that date; and whether the issue of the warrant was duly recorded in the Sheriff Court books on 10th September; or, if not, when was it so recorded.

Mr. A. G. MURRAY: I am not aware of the statements made in the first paragraph of the question, but I accept them from the honourable Member. In reply to the second paragraph, I am not aware of any reason to doubt that the warrant was signed on the date it bears; and in reply to the third paragraph, I have no information, but will inquire and privately inform the honourable Member.

DR. QUARRIER'S ORPHAN HOMES.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, whether he is aware that some thousand children of school age in the district of Kilmalcolm, having been formally refused admission to the public school, have for some weeks been receiving no education; that this state of matters has arisen from the closing, in consequence of the levying of local rates on the orphan homes of Scotland, of the school in connection with these homes in which, without any charge on the rates, the children in question have until recently been educated; and that Mr. Quarrier is willing to resume his work of education if freed from the burden of rates; and, if so, whether he will bring the present deadlock to an end by undertaking to legislate for the exemption of purely charitable institutions from local rates; or, if not, whether he will take steps to compel the school board to provide education for the children in respect of the buildings occupied by whom they exact rates.

MR. A. G. MURRAY: The Department is now in correspondence with the school board on the subject referred to in the question of the honourable Member, and in these circumstances it is undesirable that I should make any statement regarding it. The matter will receive the careful attention of the Department, but the Government cannot undertake to deal with it by special legislation.

THE SCOTTISH EDUCATION GRANT.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer how it is that under the Estimates for the present year the cost of keeping up the 12s. capitation grant for Scotland comes to £5,000, instead of £26,000, as estimated by himself and the Lord Advocate during the discussion of the Education (Scotland) Bill in 1897; and, whether he will credit Scotland with the difference, namely, a sum of about £21,000.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): The Lord Advocate has already explained why the full amount which may be required in future years for keeping the capitation grant for Scotland up to 12s. will not be necessary this year. I do not understand what the honourable Member means by crediting Scotland

with the difference; it was always stated that the matter was not and could not be dealt with on the basis of equivalent grants.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): Will the sum received in future be a lessening or increasing amount—will it progress as fast as the children do?

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): Is it not a fact that two years ago the House was informed by the Government that £66,000 in all would be given to Scotland, whereas only £41,000 is being given.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: No promise of any fixed sum was ever made, but an estimate was given of the probable cost of making the change in the educational system for that year. No pledge was given as to future years.

COUNTY MONAGHAN MAGISTRACY.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he will agree to the Return as to magistrates in county Monaghan, which stands on this day's Paper.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): There have been eight appointments to the Commission of the Peace in county Monaghan since the 18th June, 1897, of whom six are Protestants and two Roman Catholics. A list containing the names of these gentlemen, with the dates of their appointment, and particulars as to their profession or occupation, can be supplied to the honourable Member, if he desires it; but it would be contrary to practice to specify the religious denominations of individual Justices of the Peace, and the Government are not prepared to consent to a formal return of such small dimensions.

IRISH EDUCATIONAL FEE GRANTS.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether any application has been received by the Treasury from Mr. Thomas O'Donoghue, late teacher under the National Board of Education in Ireland, for arrears of fee grant due to him for the years 1893, 1894, and 1895; and, whether steps will be taken to investigate this claim, and to satisfy it if it is found to be a just one.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: An application of the kind referred to in the Question has been made; but it is part of the general subject, and can only be treated as such. I stated last year the conditions under which I was prepared to make a proposal to Parliament; but, so far from those conditions having been fulfilled, the teachers are at present in litigation with the Government about the new rules.

CURRACROW POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, will he explain why it is that letters were sent from Hollymount, South Mayo, to Curracrow up to the beginning of last April, and have since ceased to be delivered in the ordinary way; and, whether, as the district around Curracrow is a populous one, he will take into consideration the claims of the inhabitants to have their letters delivered direct as heretofore.

MR. HANBURY: With the view of extending the house-to-house delivery in the Hollymount district the question of revising the postal arrangements in the neighbourhood of Curracrow has recently been under enquiry, and, owing to a misunderstanding on the part of the local officials, the foot post from Hollymount to Curracrow was temporarily discontinued. The service was, however, resumed on the 8th instant.

ULSTER SUB-COMMISSIONERS.

MR. M'CARTAN (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Sub-Commissioners at present working in Ulster have declared that they cannot fix fair rents in cases where the valuations for the standard year on houses and land have not been lodged with or given to the Court; whether he can state how many applications have been made by solicitors for the tenants and by others for certificates of such valuations and as yet unattended to; whether he will take into consideration the desirability of suggesting to the Land Commission the propriety of having such certificates furnished to the different Sub-Commissions in respect of the holdings mentioned in the fair rent

applications in their lists for hearing; and, whether Ordnance Survey maps are at present furnished to the Sub-Commissioners in the same way for the convenience of the Court and the parties.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: With regard to the first and third paragraphs, I am informed that some inconvenience has been experienced by a few of the Sub-Commissioners owing to their not having had before them, at the hearing in Court, certificates of the revised valuation of each holding in the standard year. Arrangements were made some time ago to supply them with these certificates from the general valuation office, and they are being issued as quickly as possible. The Land Commission have applied for certificates in 2,570 cases; of these 1,170 have been issued and the remainder will be in their hands before the end of the month. 2,500 certificates have been applied for by solicitors and others, of which 2,250 have been issued, and as to the balance, 100 cases await further particulars for identification, and the remaining 150 will issue before Saturday next. With reference to the last paragraph, it is the fact that Ordnance sheets, in blank, are supplied to Assistant Commissioners, who mark on the sheets the boundaries of the holding as pointed out to them at the inspection.

NEWCASTLE (CO. DOWN) PIER AND HARBOUR WORKS.

MR. M'CARTAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the loan promised by the Treasury will be forthcoming for constructing and completing Newcastle (County Down) pier and harbour works in case the County Council adopt the suggestion made by the Treasury as to supplementing the advance promised by the Treasury.

MR. HANBURY: The original offer of the Treasury, which contemplated a grant (not a loan) of £5,000 on certain conditions, was frustrated by certain legal difficulties which may have been modified by the Irish Local Government Act of last session. I cannot give any detailed undertaking until a definite proposal from the County Council comes before the Treasury; but I may say in general terms that the offer of 1896 is still open.

MR. HENN, R.M.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, at the Ballintoghe Petty Sessions on Wednesday, 10th May, Mr. Henn, R.M., insisted on taking the chair, and when his claim to take the chair was resisted, succeeded in getting the Petty Sessions adjourned; and, whether any notice will be taken by the Executive of the proceedings of Mr. Henn on that occasion.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: On the occasion referred to, the honourable Member for North Leitrim insisted on retaining the Chair, although Mr. Henn was voted into that position by the majority of the Magistrates present. As the honourable Member for North Leitrim declined to make way for Mr. Henn the Petty Sessions Court was adjourned, again by a vote of the majority of the Magistrates present. There is nothing in the action of Mr. Henn calling for the notice of the Executive.

MR. DILLON: Is it not the fact that the majority consisted of Mr. Henn, who seconded his own nomination, and then moved the adjournment of the Court?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The bench consisted of three magistrates, and Mr. Henn was one of the two who formed the majority.

MR. DILLON: Am I to understand that the Executive approve of this conduct on the part of an executive officer?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: As I have said, I see nothing in the action calling for the notice of the Executive.

IRISH CHURCH FUND.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Land Commission was consulted by the Irish Government as to the provisions of the Tithe Rent-Charge Bill and the condition of the Church Fund before the Bill was introduced; whether any correspondence has passed between the Treasury, the Land Commission, and the Irish Government on this subject; and, if any correspondence has passed, whether he will lay it upon the Table of the House.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Land Commission, as such, has not been formally consulted by the Irish Government on the subject of the Tithe Rent-Charge Bill, but full information has been placed at the disposal of the Irish Government by the office of the Land Commission. All communications that have passed on this subject are of a confidential character, and I cannot consent to lay them on the table of the House.

MOUNT BELLEW UNION.

MR. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the Killcorran division of Mount Bellew Union the rateable value of the lands in the hands of small tenants is under £1 per head of population, and that there are in the division considerable tracts of grass lands; and, whether he will consider the desirability of having the division scheduled as a congested area.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The facts may be as stated in the first paragraph. The electoral division referred to is not, however, a congested area within the meaning of the 36th Section of the 54th and 55th Vict. cap. 48, and there is no legal power to schedule it as such.

MR. DILLON: Will the Irish Government consider the advisability of introducing some modification of the Act to enable it to be done?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: As at present advised I do not think it desirable.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION BILL (IRELAND).

MR. AUSTIN (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the importance of the agricultural and manufacturing industries of Ireland and the distinctive character of the legislative and other conditions relating to them respectively, the Government are prepared to make provision for the subject of technical instruction being separately dealt with by an officer of the Department, acting under the advice of the Board of Technical Instruction proposed to be created by the Bill.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: If the honourable Member does not think that sufficient account has been taken in the Bill of the distinctive character of agricultural as contrasted with manufacturing industries, it will be open to him to raise the question on the Second Reading of the measure, or in Committee.

COUNTY ANTRIM CONSTABULARY.

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the action of County Inspector Scott, in promoting Protestant constables over Roman Catholics, has produced discontent in the ranks of the County Antrim Constabulary; whether he can state how many Roman Catholics have either left the force altogether or applied for transfers to other counties since Mr. Scott's appointment in 1897; and, will he confer with Sir Andrew Reid, Inspector-General, in order to redress the balance in the County Antrim Force.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am not aware that any discontent has been produced, as alleged, in the ranks of the County Antrim Constabulary. The number of men serving in the county who have left the force since Mr. Scott's appointment in 1897 is as follows:—

	Roman Catholics.	Protestants.
Pensioned	11	11
Resigned	4	2
Applied for transfer to other counties	33	25

Of the four Roman Catholics who resigned, two did so to save themselves from dismissal. The county force consisted of 258 men at the end of last year, of whom 132 were Roman Catholics and 126 were Protestants. Promotions in Antrim, as elsewhere, are not regulated by considerations of religion, and the claims of all deserving constables are considered quite irrespective of their religious views.

NEWBLISS MAILS.

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether the English and late Dublin letters, which arrive at Newbliss about 8.40 a.m., lie in the post office till 11 a.m.; whether an additional postman has been appointed at Newbliss; and, if so, what are his duties and salary; and seeing that Newbliss is a town of about 100 houses altogether,

what difficulty is there in the way of having the 8.40 a.m. mails delivered immediately on their arrival.

MR. HANBURY: It is the fact that the English and late Dublin letters which arrive at Newbliss about 8.40 a.m. lie in the post office till 11 a.m. The explanation is that the mail from Belfast containing the Scotch and North of Ireland letters does not arrive until the latter hour, and a combined delivery is then made. An additional auxiliary postman has recently been appointed at Newbliss. His duties consist in making two deliveries of letters in and about Newbliss, and in fetching the Belfast morning mail from the station. His pay is 6s. a week with 5d. additional for Sunday duty. If the English and Dublin late letters were delivered immediately after their arrival at 8.40 a.m., the North of Ireland and Scotch letters would have to be called for by the public at the post office, as a third delivery by postman would not be justified.

SUPPRESSION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS IN COUNTY MAYO.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the suppression of the meeting at Breaffy, county Mayo, on Sunday last was based upon an information sworn by some person that such meeting, if held, would lead to intimidation; and whether he can say if such information was sworn by a police officer or by a civilian.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The proclamation which was issued prohibiting the holding of this meeting was based upon an information sworn by the district Inspector of Constabulary. This information was to the effect that he had reasonable grounds for believing, and did believe, that the meeting would cause a breach of the peace and tranquility of the neighbourhood and would lead to boycotting and intimidation.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland how many public meetings announced to be held, in the usual way of popular demonstrations, have been proclaimed and suppressed in the county of Mayo during the past twelve months; and if he can state whether such action by the

police authorities has in each instance been ordered by the Executive in Dublin, or was taken on the initiative of the resident magistrates in the county.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Five meetings of the United Irish League have been prohibited in the county of Mayo during the past twelve months. The direction to prevent these meetings was given in each case by the Executive Government.

IRISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARDS.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, what is the total amount of money now at the disposal annually of the Congested Districts Board for the furtherance of the labours of that body; if he can state the sum which has been added this year, and for future annual outlay, to the previous yearly income of the Board; and, whether a portion of this total yearly revenue, and if so, how much, is specifically intended for the work of bettering or enlarging small holdings in congested areas.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Board's ordinary income is £41,250 per annum, being interest on the Church Surplus Grant, exclusive of assistance out of valid moneys to the extent of about £6,000 towards the cost of administration. In addition to these amounts the Board administer (chiefly for loans) two fishery funds, the capital value of which at present is about £40,000. In reply to the second paragraph, I would refer the honourable Member to the statement already made by me in the debate on an Amendment to the Address at the beginning of this session. The future annual income of the Board will be increased by a sum of between £18,000 and £19,000 a year, but this provision will have to be made by Bill, and I cannot state at present whether any of the additional income will begin to accrue before the commencement of the next financial year. No portion of the yearly revenue of the Board is specifically allocated to the purpose mentioned in the last paragraph. In the speech already alluded to I explained the further facilities which the Board will in future enjoy by the placing of floating capital at its disposal. The money for the purchase of estates is obtained by advances of land stock from the Land Commission.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. PICKERSGILL: Does the First Lord intend by moving the suspension of the twelve o'clock Rule, to secure the passing of the London Government Bill through Committee before the House rises?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I had not contemplated so horrible a prospect as that of an all-night sitting over the London Government Bill in Committee, nor do I see that there is any reasonable prospect of that Bill not being got over in very good time. It is solely in that belief that I shall ask the House to suspend the twelve o'clock Rule, and I think everybody will join with me in seeing the great inconvenience of keeping half a page of the Bill over to be dealt with after the Holidays. I think we ought to finish it to-night.

MR. COURTNEY: In the event of the Committee stage of the Bill being finished to-night, can the right honourable Gentleman state the day when he proposes to take the Report stage, or a day before which the Report stage will not be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I shall not take the Report stage of the Bill before the 5th June in any case.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): What Supply will be taken to-morrow?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Objection has been taken to our dealing with the Customs Vote to-morrow, and therefore the Inland Revenue Vote will be the first Order. I have already intimated what other Votes will be taken, including Votes in Class 2.

MR. CALDWELL: Is the right honourable Gentleman aware that Class 2 is very contentious in respect of some Votes, especially regarding *Hansard*?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We can discuss that question to-morrow, and I daresay we shall be able to come to some arrangement.

MR. STEADMAN: Will the right honourable Gentleman postpone the Post Office Vote until after June 1st?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We propose to take it that day. I am afraid it would be very inconvenient to disturb that arrangement. It is a Vote we are very anxious to get, and I hope it will be regarded as a convenient arrangement.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, with a view to meet the convenience of Irish Members, he will arrange that no Irish business shall be taken before Tuesday, 13th June.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No Irish business will be taken before the 13th June. Of course in that undertaking I do not include the Third Reading of the Finance Bill, which I understand some Irish Members desire to talk about.

MR. CALDWELL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether it is proposed to take any Scotch Votes tomorrow or on 1st or 2nd June; and, if so, would he state what Votes, and on what day.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir; it is not my intention to take any Scotch Votes on either of the days mentioned.

SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment made by the Lords to the Amendments made by the Commons, agreed to.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order).

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 1st June, and to be printed. [Bill 214.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

PUBLIC LIBRARIES (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

TENTERDEN RAILWAY BILL.

Without Amendment.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

BRIGG URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL. With Amendments.

Amendments to—

SOLICITORS BILL [Lords].

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the law with respect to persons carrying on business as money-lenders." [Money-Lending Bill [Lords.]]

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to remove the Disqualification of Justices in certain cases under the Licensing Acts, 1872-4." [Licensing (Disqualification of Justices Removal) Bill [Lords.]]

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to enable the Port Talbot Railway and Docks Company to maintain certain deviations of their railways and works authorised by The Port Talbot Railway and Docks Act, 1894, The Port Talbot Railway and Docks (Ogmore Valleys Extension) Act, 1896, and The Port Talbot Railway and Docks (South Wales Mineral Railway Junction) Act, 1896; and for other purposes." [Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [Lords.]]

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to enable the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of Salford to reconstruct their existing and to construct additional Tramways; to make street improvements, and to raise additional moneys by mortgage and by the creation and issue of stock; and to make further provisions for the good government of the borough." [Salford Corporation Bill [Lords.]]

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to make further provision in regard to the water undertaking of the Corporation of Wakefield, and to health, local government, and improvement of the city; and for other purposes." [Wakefield Corporation Bill [Lords.]]

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to empower the mayor, alderman, and burgesses of the borough of Loughborough to purchase the undertaking of the Loughborough Gas Company, and to supply gas

and electricity; to extend the water limits of the said Corporation; and for other purposes." [Loughborough Corporation Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to incorporate the Trustees of the Colonial and Foreign Banks Guarantee Fund, and to enlarge the powers vested in such Trustees; and for other purposes." [Colonial and Foreign Banks Guarantee Fund Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to extend the period limited for the construction and completion of the Brighton Marine Palace and Pier; and for other purposes." [Brighton Marine Palace and Pier Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act for conferring further powers on the Furness Railway Company for the construction of works, the raising of capital, and otherwise in relation to their undertaking; and for other purposes." [Furness Railway Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act for granting further powers to the Stretford Gas Company." [Stretford Gas Bill [Lords].]

And also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to empower the Paisley and Barrhead District Railway Company to construct new railways; and for other purposes." [Paisley and Barrhead District Railway Bill [Lords].]

PORT TALBOT RAILWAY AND DOCKS BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL (Lords).

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

WAKEFIELD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

LOUGHBOROUGH CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN BANKS GUARANTEE FUND BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

BRIGHTON MARINE PALACE AND PIER BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

FURNESS RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

STRETTFORD GAS BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PAISLEY AND BARRHEAD DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

MONEY-LENDING BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 1st June, and to be printed. [Bill 215.]

IRELAND—PUBLIC MEETING, COUNTY OF MAYO.

Motion for Adjournment.

Mr. DAVITT (Mayo S.) rose in his place, and asked leave to move the Adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely,

"The suppression of a public meeting in the county of Mayo, on Sunday last, by a force of armed police, and of an unwarranted interference thereby with the legal right of the people of that county to exercise the privileges of free speech and of public meeting for the purpose of discussing their grievances and of demanding constitutional remedies therefor."

but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen,

Mr. DAVITT assured the House that he would not have taken this unusual course if the action of which he complained was an isolated instance of police interference with the right of public

meeting and free speech in that county. As they had heard from the Chief Secretary that afternoon, this was the fifth instance of the kind in the same county during the last twelve months, and he was called upon, as one of the Members for Mayo, to register the strongest possible protest against a continuance of these most unwarranted proceedings. The explanation given by the Chief Secretary for this latest act of violence by authority was in no way a justification for so extreme a course as that pursued on Sunday. He could not imagine any such a course being taken on this side of the Irish Sea unless the Home Secretary became politically demented, and so long as the fiction of equal laws for both countries was proclaimed in England they must insist upon equal treatment in the matter of the commonest rights of citizenship being accorded to the Irish people. The meeting on Sunday at Breaffy was called for the purpose of furthering the objects of the United Irish League, and he need not go into details as to what those objects were. They were well and widely known to be the general betterment of the land workers in Ireland by means of the enlargement of holdings and of other reforms. Those objects were either legal or illegal. If legal it was a monstrous outrage upon the rights of the people to have their meetings proclaimed and suppressed. If those objects were illegal it was the duty of the right honourable Gentleman to prosecute and bring before the tribunal of the law those who promoted such meetings and who had identified themselves with the purposes for which they were called. The Chief Secretary could not escape from this position. He must either observe the law himself through his underlings or take steps to put the law in motion in the usual way. To proclaim a meeting on the ground that it would lead to some breach of the law if it was held was virtually to hand over to the police the power of suppressing every meeting which might have a strong political complexion. This was coercion in its most objectionable form. It was simply making the resident magistrate, who was always a strong political partisan in Ireland, the arbiter of the rights of the people. He desired to protest against this as an intolerable invasion of popular liberty. His own experience at one of these suppressed meetings would afford the

Mr. Davitt.

House some idea of the extremes to which the police authorities of the county of Mayo would resort to put down what he contended were legal and constitutional meetings. A few months ago he was going for the first time to a section of his constituency since being elected for the division. What happened? He would ask honourable Members whether a parallel to these proceedings could be found in the whole history of political reform movements in England. He was stopped on the public highway within his constituency, two miles from the place of meeting, by a force of police, some of them armed with batons, and some with rifles. He was not allowed to even proceed along the road within a mile-and-a-half of one of the chief towns in his own constituency. Women and girls were also stopped on the public highway, without a single breach of the peace having been committed by anyone except the police. He had not spoken a word nor done an act that could lend a shadow of justification for this despotic action of the magistrate and his constabulary force, and yet he was stopped on the public highway within the constituency which he represented, and denied the common right of proceeding along the road. He wondered what would be the language of the English Press if conduct of this outrageous kind was carried on by the Boer officials at Johannesburg, and Uitlanders were stopped on a public highway by armed police, and denied the privilege of using a roadway which led to a place where a public meeting was to be held? A feeling of speechless indignation would prevail in this country at such proceedings; and yet they had, on the admission of the Chief Secretary, five instances of this putting down of a public meeting and of interference with individual liberty by a reckless police authority during the past year, no nearer to the Transvaal than the County of Mayo. The Chief Secretary, in calling for the suppression of these meetings, only succeeded in bringing the law and its administrators into contempt. These meetings were not prevented. Two or three gatherings took place as a rule around the locality where one had been forbidden, the result being that the whole costly proceeding of bringing fifty or a hundred police to one place became the laughing-stock of the whole country. But though it might be a matter for

popular amusement to witness these exhibitions of Executive folly, there was a great right involved and menaced in such action as that of Sunday, and he wished to warn the right honourable Gentleman that he would not be permitted to carry on those high-handed proceedings in future without a protest of this kind being made whenever he resorted to the course which had called this protest forth. The United Irish League was a well-known organisation and it had held a large number of meetings. Either it was a legal combination or it was not. If it was, they had as much right to propagate their views and principles by the media of public meeting and free speech as the members of the Primrose League had to do the same in a similar manner. If the Irish League was not a legal movement the Law Officers of the Crown in Ireland were neglecting their duty in not prosecuting himself and others who were at the head of that movement, and who had resolved to extend it wherever the people wished to join its ranks and further its aims and objects. He would not suggest that Sunday's burlesque proceedings were carried out by the police of Mayo with an eye to influencing a certain trial which was now going on in Dublin, although he thought that the police authorities of that country would be quite capable of acting in such a way. He did say, however, that this latest suppression of a public meeting by the Chief Secretary might have something to do with an important announcement which he made in the House a few days ago with reference to the Dillon estate. The right honourable Gentleman seems to be in a condition of morbid fear lest he should be suspected by his own party of being capable of carrying out good or useful work in Ireland on the suggestion of his political opponents or under the influence of a Nationalist movement. If he would permit him to say so, he was acting very unwisely, and it was childish in the extreme. The purchase of the Dillon estate by the Congested Districts Board was as much due to the existence of the propaganda and organisation of the United Irish League in Connaught as the passing of the Land Act of 1881 and of subsequent Purchase Acts was due to the labours of the Land League. At any rate, he insisted, as one of the Members for the County of Mayo, that this policy of putting down public meetings by

the batons and rifles of the Royal Irish Constabulary was a violation of one of their most cherished civil rights, and a totally unprecedented proceeding on the part of the Chief Secretary, and in order to register his protest against this recurring resort to Executive violence against the privileges of public meeting and free speech, he begged to move that the House do now adjourn.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.), in seconding the Motion, said that the object of the United Irish League had been to supplement the action of the Chief Secretary in his efforts to do away with the cause of the famine in Ireland. The Chief Secretary declared last Session that as long as he was Chairman of the Congested Districts Board he would use his influence against the purchase of any land where the United Irish League had influence. The Dillon estate of 90,000 acres was situated in the very centre of the locality where this United League was established, and from that it would be seen that this League was quite right in agitating for the purchase of those estates on fair terms. He protested against the suppression of last Sunday's meeting. On the evidence of Mr. Justice Johnson and the County Court Judge, there did not exist at the present time in the whole county of Mayo a single case of serious crime. Mr. Justice Johnson said there was only one case of agrarian outrage for the whole year, and that was of an incendiary character; and that there was ample ground for a sworn investigation as to the cause of that burning. The United Irish League had over and over again challenged the Government to hold a sworn inquiry as to the cause of certain outrages.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The honourable Member must confine himself to the question of the action of the administration in suppressing this meeting.

DR. AMBROSE said he desired to protest in the strongest possible manner against the keeping in prison of a poor woman whose husband had gone over to work in the harvest field in England, and also against the action of the Government in attempting to suppress the United Irish League.

Motion made and Question proposed—
 "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Davitt.*)

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) said he had received no sort of notice that this question was going to be raised, and he had not got with him the Papers relating to this meeting. The honourable Member who moved this motion began by saying that he would not have taken this unusual method of calling attention to what had happened if it had not been that this was the fifth meeting that the Executive had stopped in County Mayo during the last twelve months. Considering the character of the language that had been used at many of the meetings which had taken place, he did not think the Government could be accused of having taken very severe action in having suppressed five meetings out of a number not much short of two hundred. That did not look as if the sacred right of public meetings in Ireland had been interfered with very largely. During the four years he had held the post of Chief Secretary he had suppressed probably less than half the number of meetings suppressed by his predecessor during the three years in which he was in office, and yet the right honourable Gentleman the member for Montrose—who suppressed no less than 29 meetings—was in the habit of boasting that his administration was one which had the hearty sympathy of the Irish people. The honourable Member appeared to think that he had taken an unusual course in directing an information to be sworn by a police officer. That was a practice that had been followed from time immemorial by the Irish Government. It was no novelty, for it was followed by his predecessor, and no complaints were made during the term of office of the right honourable Gentleman the Member for Montrose. Not only this, but it was a reasonable practice. What happened was this. All the information that the Government could obtain from the police or otherwise respecting the effect which any meeting was likely to have was most carefully considered, and if it was deemed that in the interests of public peace or on the ground of the gathering being unlawful, the meeting ought to be proclaimed, instructions were given that the information supplied to the Executive Government should be sworn

in accordance with the information. No police officer was asked to swear that which he was not prepared to swear, and the sworn information did not affect the legality or illegality of the meeting. It was open to the Executive to suppress a meeting without any proclamation whatever, but it had always been held fitting and proper that notice should be given when a meeting was to be suppressed, and the usual course was to have a sworn information before a magistrate. In deciding whether this meeting ought to be suppressed or not, the Executive had to take into account all the circumstances of the locality. The honourable Member for South Mayo asked him if he could give any ground for thinking that this meeting would have had the effect of leading to a breach of the peace or intimidation. He would give him from memory one of the circumstances which they had to consider in coming to a conclusion. Having regard to an announcement made in a paper that circulated in the district, they were justified in saying that one of the objects of this meeting was to call attention to the case of two particular individuals, and to incite the people attending that meeting to boycott and intimidate those two individuals. The honourable Member argued that if the objects of the United Irish League were legal these meetings to further those objects must be allowed; if they were not legal, under those circumstances he calls upon the Government to prosecute the members of the United Irish League. There was, however, one very obvious fact which he appeared to have lost sight of. Granted that the objects of the League were, in a wider sense, not illegal—and he might acknowledge that he should be glad to see an enlargement of the holdings in the West of Ireland, which was said to be one of the objects of the League, and which he thought was a very desirable object—the Government had to look not merely at the general objects of the League, but they had also to look at the means by which those objects were sought to be attained, and over and over again, in order to promote the objects of the United Irish League, circumstances pointing to intimidation and boycotting were very frequent. The honourable Member said, "why don't you allow the meetings to be held, take notes of the speeches, and then prosecute the speakers?" No doubt that was a course which

they might adopt, and which had been sometimes adopted in the past; but he was not quite sure that the honourable Member, in giving him that advice, was not really asking him to do what he knew would lead to an abortive prosecution. If he might give an illustration to the House of what the opinion was which was held by the leaders of the United Irish League as to the effect of such prosecutions he should like to quote from a speech made by Mr. William O'Brien, in County Mayo, on the 31st of January, 1897, in which he pointed out that the prosecutions would not take place as of old before two removable magistrates, but before a jury of twelve Mayo men, whose verdict would be, "More power to you; God be with you." That was the opinion of one of the leaders of the League, and it was an excellent reason why the Government should not take the course which had been recommended that afternoon by the honourable Member for South Mayo. He thought that extract alone was sufficient to convince the House that the methods adopted by the United Irish League were not always of a legal character, and it frequently happened that the Government might find it necessary to suppress meetings which were likely to lead to such results as he had indicated. The honourable Member went on to say that the suppression of this meeting might have something to do with the purchase of the Dillon estate by the Congested Districts Board, and he was good enough to suggest that he had been reluctant to take this course because it had been advocated by his political opponents, and that he took advantage of this meeting to make a sort of political manifesto. He did not think that that was a charge which he needed to take very seriously, because it was not his habit to proclaim meetings to gain political success. He would much rather that the meetings should be held, but it was his duty, under certain circumstances, to proclaim them. As to the Dillon Estate credit had been claimed for its purchase by the honourable mover and seconder of this motion for the United Irish League; but he should like to say in the most emphatic manner that the purchase of that estate had nothing whatever to do with the action of the United Irish League, for they had merely thrown difficulties in the way, and the reason why they had been able to purchase that

estate had been because it was situated in a part of Mayo where this League agitation had not taken a hold. If there had been anything in the shape of agrarian agitation in connection with the Dillon estate, he had not the slightest hesitation in saying that the Congested Districts Board would have declined to purchase it.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that if he were to follow the right honourable Gentleman upon the subject of the United Irish League he would no doubt be ruled out of order. He was afraid that they who had sat for years in that House were reminded by diatribes like that to which they had listened of what was always said against the Land League. They were constantly told that the Land Acts had nothing to do with the agitation, but somehow or other the one always followed the other. This motion for the Adjournment of the House was made in consequence of the action of the Irish Executive in suppressing a meeting last Sunday in the county of Mayo. When the right honourable Gentleman was asked upon what ground the meeting was suppressed, he answered that it was likely to lead to a breach of the peace, and to the disturbance of the tranquility of the district, and to the intimidation of certain individuals. The Chief Secretary was asked who was his informant, and who swore the information, and the usual answer was given that the individual who gave the information was a police officer. The House should remember that the police officer was the direct agent of the Chief Secretary, and they were informed that that police officer swore his information at the instance of Dublin Castle. There was a great principle involved in this matter. Was Dublin Castle to be at liberty to direct one of its officials to swear an information, and then upon that information to suppress a meeting which, in the judgment of the Castle, might interfere with the tranquillity of a district? Was the right of public meeting to be entirely at the mercy of the officials in Ireland, and was that right only existent so far as the right honourable Gentleman permitted it?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR reminded the honourable Member that the action taken

by the Irish Executive could be tested in a court of law.

MR. DILLON: What an offer that was to make to the poor people of Mayo, for it would cost £300 to take the matter to a court of law. What happened? A meeting was proclaimed; people went to the place of meeting, and immediately found themselves face to face with an overwhelming force of police, armed with firearms and with batons, and the only way to test the action of the Executive in suppressing these meetings was to resist the police in the first instance. If resistance was offered to the police in England a few broken heads might probably follow, but in Ireland resistance to the police was met with a discharge of firearms. He himself saw instances where, upon the slightest hesitation being shown by the people to disperse, bayonets were immediately fixed and the people, when actually flying, were pursued and charged with fixed bayonets, and in some cases stabbed, and it was rather absurd for the Chief Secretary to inform the House that there was a legal remedy open to the people to test the action of the Government in these matters. That was a mockery, and it was no remedy whatever. There was a remedy if the people were willing to offer their bodies to the batons and bayonets and bullets of the police. The Chief Secretary's remedy was no remedy whatever, and therefore, if such proclamations of meetings were to be allowed to pass without protest the right of public meeting in Ireland would be at the mercy and good will of the Executive Government in Ireland and the Chief Secretary himself. Whenever he thought it was desirable for "tranquillity and peace" that public meetings should not be held all he had to do was to ask the police to swear an information, and there was no remedy whatever. The Chief Secretary said that out of 200 meetings held during the past twelve months in connection with this movement, he had only proclaimed five. But did not that make their case stronger? There were 200 meetings held, and out of the whole of them no disturbance had taken place. What had been the effects of the agitation from the point of view of public order and tranquillity? Why, they had an admission from the right honourable Gentleman the other day in the debate upon the repeal of the Crimes Act that at

Mr. G. W. Balfour.

no period of Ireland's history was the country in possession of greater peace.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR said he was then alluding to the country as a whole. As a matter of fact crime had not decreased in South Mayo.

MR. DILLON said he denied that statement absolutely. At the last Assizes in the County of Mayo the judge declared that the place was actually free from crime, and the only crimes reported of a serious character were crimes committed by one policeman and the relation of a policeman—one a crime of attempted murder and the other a crime of a very disgraceful character. The County of Mayo was wholly free from all serious agrarian crime. The only agrarian crime committed was the case of alleged shooting at Mr. Stoney, about which there seemed to be a great deal of mystery. In a district spreading over a considerable area, suffering from great grievances calculated to excite the feelings of the people, a popular organisation had existed for two years, and two hundred open-air meetings had been held, and in no instance had there been any disturbance or breach of the peace, nor any serious crime that could be laid at the people's doors as a result of those meetings; and he said the case against the action of the Government in suppressing the Breaffy meeting was thereby enormously strengthened. They were accustomed to hear a great deal about the grievances of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal, and one of those grievances, upon which that House and the newspapers were most frantic and angry, was that the Uitlanders were denied the right of public meeting. They knew that the Government of the Transvaal had been denounced for denying what was described as an elementary right to the subjects of Her Majesty who lived in Johannesburg, but here they had an instance, only one of very many, where that self-same right, on infinitely less ground of justification, was denied to the poor peasantry of Mayo under the ægis and the protecting wing of this very Parliament. He said it was the height of hypocrisy to denounce the oppression of the Uitlanders of the Transvaal and claim for them the right of free meeting when they denied the same right to the peasantry of Mayo, who had greater grievances to complain of than the Uitlanders, and who had not been recently

engaged in attempts to upset the established authority. What was the condition of the country at the present moment? It could be learned from the speeches which were made at an indoor meeting which the people held after being prevented from holding it in public. One of the speakers said it was pitiful every day to witness the scenes which took place at railway stations where parents were bidding farewell to the children whose faces they would never see again. Emigration was very frequent, although the Chief Secretary had denied the fact, and it was to put an end to a terrible condition of things, a purely artificial state of things, which compelled the people to leave a country in which, if proper reforms were carried, they would be able to live and thrive, and increase the wealth of the nation. It was to put an end to such a deplorable state of things that the League existed and carried on its operations. And even if it were true that in the course of the 200 meetings strong language had been used by them the Chief Secretary should deal with the individuals who had used it. It would be the part of a wise and prudent statesman not to be too critical as to the character of the language used at public meetings so long as it was neither accompanied or followed by disorder. What he ought rather to look at was not the language from the platforms, but the consequences from it.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Hear, hear.

MR. DILLON contended that the consequences of this agitation had been peace, and the country was now at peace. There was nothing in the condition of the country to justify strong repressive measures on the part of the Government. As a matter of fact the right honourable Gentleman had not attempted to lay before the House, upon this or any other occasion when the subject had been discussed, any statement of crime or disorder such as had formerly been made by Chief Secretaries for Ireland when they were justifying or attempting to justify similar strong measures. There was another matter to which the honourable Member, attaching as he did great importance to it, desired to call the attention of the House. He always thought it was the first duty of the Executive—and particularly of an Execu-

tive Minister like the Chief Secretary, who practically exercised uncontrolled and irresponsible authority in Ireland—to be above even the suspicion of partiality in administering his great powers. One of the things which he most complained of in connection with this particular suppressed meeting was that he was forced to contrast the action with regard to that meeting with the course which had been adopted recently in Belfast by the right honourable Gentleman in dealing with the Orangemen. There was one way of dealing with the peasantry of Mayo and another for the Orangemen of Belfast. What did he say when his attention was called to recent proceedings of a disgraceful character in that city? A very different thing indeed to what he delivered himself of with regard to the Mayo meeting. In the latter case he said he had grounds for suspecting that the holding of the meeting might disturb the tranquillity of the district and intimidate individuals. But in Belfast meetings had been held for a period of six months, Sunday after Sunday, with the avowed object of disturbing the peace and tranquillity, and of denouncing one single person. That was not a case of mere suspicion, and when again and again honourable Members asked him to take steps for the protection in the exercise of his rights of a person who was there being persecuted, the Chief Secretary had a very different sort of answer to make. The result was that the mob triumphed, the church had been closed, and that clergyman, for all he knew to the contrary, had been driven out of the city of Belfast. That was the law as administered in Belfast; but in Connaught, where a few persons met to protest against iniquitous laws, whose operation kept them in poverty and left them a reproach to England before the whole of the civilised world, their meetings were suppressed on the ground of the suspicion of certain results. The Chief Secretary did not wait for the confirmation of the suspicions by facts. There was licence and leave in Belfast to trample law under foot, and hound down an individual, but in Mayo a legal right dared not be exercised by the people. The right honourable Gentleman did not like to put the law into force in Belfast for fear of bloodshed, but he never hesitated about that in the West of Ireland. What he (Mr. Dillon) denounced most of all in

connection with this matter was that this was a glaring instance of the fact that there was one law in Ireland for the peasantry of Connaught, and a totally different law for the Orangemen of Belfast.

*MR. WILLIAM MOORE (Antrim, N.) said he rose to utter a few words of protest against the course which was invariably taken up by honourable Members on the Opposition side of the House whenever an Irish question was raised, of assuming that they had a right to speak for what they called "the Irish people." He begged leave to tell the Chief Secretary for Ireland that he had the entire support of more than one-third of the Irish people.

MR. DILLON : Orangemen !

* MR. WILLIAM MOORE said he himself was not an Orangeman, and he did not speak for Orangemen alone. The right honourable Gentleman had at his back all people who were interested in the prosperity of the country and the ordinary liberties of the subject, and who respected private rights to carry on business as they thought fit. He cordially agreed with honourable Members on the other side that there was a question of principle involved. He thought there was a very serious question of principle affecting the liberty of the subject involved, and it was this. Had a man in Mayo, who had lived there all his life and got a grass farm from his father, now at the instance of honourable Members opposite and their friends, to be driven "willy nilly" out of his farm ? The honourable members and their friends seemed to go and say : "law or no law, you will have to give up possession of it." If that was not the case, then the meetings had failed in their objects. The objects of the meetings were to put down land-grabbing, and to make it impossible to hold those lands, and if those objects were not carried out the meetings were absolutely fruitless and pointless. One honourable Member had asked what happened in Belfast. He would tell him. The right honourable Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland took his own course, and he was bound to say that that course did not meet with universal approval in Belfast. So anxious was the right honourable Gentleman to preserve the right of free speech in Belfast, that

Mr. Dillon.

last year when the Member for South Mayo went down to speak the right honourable Gentleman refused to proclaim that meeting. The result was that the honourable Gentleman left Belfast within twenty-four hours, leaving behind him the seeds of discontent, riot and confusion, which plunged many homes into misery, and took three months to allay at the public expense, and that was what came of allowing free meetings in certain districts in Ireland, which everyone knew was like going to a powder magazine with a lighted match. Those in Ireland who were interested in trade and private rights, and in putting down disorder, and allowing the country to have a little time to recover from agitation, cordially supported the policy of the right honourable Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland. Members opposite had said there was to be one law for meetings in the United Kingdom and another for meetings in Ireland. The policy of the right honourable Gentleman the Chief Secretary had been in the interests of liberty of the subject and of the right of free speech, to put down intimidation and to check crime and prevent disorder, and where it had done so that policy had been absolutely justified by the circumstances.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said he was very much surprised to hear the right honourable Gentleman the Chief Secretary deny the statement of the honourable Member for South Mayo, with regard to emigration. His information was that the distressing scenes of young people separating for ever from their parents in many cases, were more frequent in Ireland than they had been for some considerable time. All those who had money to leave with were leaving Ireland, and the only reason why the exodus was not larger was that the people had not the money to pay their passages to America ; those who left, the moment they had earned enough money, sent it over to Ireland in order that their relatives might join them. He wanted prosperity in Ireland just as much as the Chief Secretary desired it, but was that prosperity to be gained by driving people out of the country or by retaining the population in the country ? He challenged the denial of the right honourable Gentleman. Emigration was rising at this moment, and within the memory of men

iddle age the population of Ireland largely decreased and emigration still increasing.

. SPEAKER: Order, order! The on of emigration is entirely out-ae motion.

. T. P. O'CONNOR admitted that was so, but said that he felt that was the question which lay at the f the motion they were discussing. aintained that the whole vice of the it Government of Ireland as con- l by the right honourable Gentle- the Chief Secretary and his pre-

decessors was that they were not able to obtain reforms until, after a long period of agitation, some strong movement arose. He congratulated Mr. William O'Brien and the United Irish League on the many victories they had already won over the right honourable Gentleman, and he prophesied a great many more victories before many months had elapsed.

Question put.

The House divided :—For the adjourn- ment 107 ; Against 212.—(Division List No. 156.)

AYES.

am, William (Rhondda)
William (Gateshead)
Wm. (Newc. under Lyne)
1, Sir John (Yorkshire)
1, M. (Limerick, W.)
idge, Emerson
7, Thomas (Derbyshire)
ont, Wentworth C.B.
Edward
hurst, Henry
John
Thomas
n, Sydney Charles
ell, James
on, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
on, Robert (Durham)
on, Richard Knight
Dr. G.B. (Caithness-sh.)
e, John
ie, John William
1, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
, John
in, Captain A.
n, P. C.
Sir William
ds, Owen Morgan
arson, Dr. Robert
ck, Charles
Dr. Joseph Francis
one, Rt. Hn. Hrbt. John
rd, Daniel Ford
Charles
y, Sir Edward Temperley
h, Ellis J.
n, Sir William Brampton
od, George

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hedderwick, [Thomas Chas. H.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holden, Sir Angus
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Sir Leonard
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Ewan, William
M'Leod, John
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Kelly, James
Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)

Philipps, John Wynford
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
Wallace, Robert (Perth)
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barusley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfd.)
Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr.
Davitt and Dr. Ambrose.

NOES.

John
sen, Augustus H. Eden
s, Hon. George
ale, Edward Mervyn
i-Forster, Hugh O.
son, Rt. Hon. John
Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
, James (Walworth)
John George Alexander
r, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
r, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
ry, Frederick George
s, Frederick Gorell

Barry, Rt. Hn. A. Smith- (Hunts)
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Blownaggee, Sir M. M.
Biddulph, Michael
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund

Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)

Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
 Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Currie, Sir Donald
 Carzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Elliott, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (Wdnebury)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles

Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Heath, James
 Helder, Augustus
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kimber, Henry
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'nsea)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Lorne, Marques of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 M'Athur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Calmont, H. L. B. (Camba.)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh, W.)
 M'Killop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Marks, Henry Hananel
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, Jhn. Throgmorton
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)

Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Pender, Sir James
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hrtlp)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

of the clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order, Sittings of the House."—
 (Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

Motion made, and Question put—

"That the proceedings on the London Government Bill, if under discussion at Twelve

The House divided:—Ayes 219; Noes 98.—(Division List No. 157.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Waltham)
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)

Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederick Gorell
 Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
 Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
 Bartley, George C. T.

Dunbar Plunket
Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
W. W. Bramston (Hants.)
Ch. Lord Henry C.
Commander
aggrege, Sir M. M.
ph, Michael
ll, Colonel Henry
Edward
en, Arthur Griffith-
is, Edmund
Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Albert
k, Rt. Hon. St. John
Rt. Hon. James
l, Sir Harry
John
Sydney Charles
ll, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow)
ish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Sir Charles William
velyn (Hertford, E.)
ord Hugh (Greenwich)
r, Captain R. G. W.
erlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
erlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
l, Rt. Hon. Henry
gton, Spencer
Viscount
Sir Edward (Plymouth)
ae, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Douglas Harry
Benjamin Louis
s, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Chas. Edw. H. Athole
y, Rt. Hn. Leonard H.
in Edward B. (Harrow)
rne, Viscount
Charles Alfred
erb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Hon. Henry
Viscount
Colonel Philip Hugh
h, Earl of
ple, Sir Charles
Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
Colonel
Poynder, Sir John P.
on, Sir John Edward
y, George
s, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
l, William Theodore
abe, Hon. Hubert V.
l, Hon. A. de Tatton
Sir T. George
s, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Admiral (Eastbourne)
George H.
Sir Robert Bannatyne
c, Joseph Thomas
William Hayes
ald, Sir Robert Penrose-
urice, Lord Edmund
ygram, General Sir F.
y, Sir Fortescue
r, Sir Henry
Colonel (Lancaster)
ly, William Johnson

Garfit, William
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Godson, Sir Augustus F.
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wedgebury)
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Heath, James
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bris.)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howell, William Tudor
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Hutton, John (Yorks., N. R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joliffe, Hon. H. George
Kemp, George
Kimber, Henry
Labouchere, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leighton, Stanley
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
McArthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
McAlmont, H. L. B. (Cambs.)
McIver, Sir L. (Edinburgh W.)
McKillop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Marks, Henry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.

Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milner, Sir Frederick George
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William George
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Pender, Sir James
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Powell, Sir Francis
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Savory, Sir Joseph
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Steadman, William Charles
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
Thorburn, Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Ward, Hn. Robert A. (Crewe)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of W.)
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Young, Commander (Berks E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

m, William (Rhondla)
William (Guteshead)
e, Robert
y-Jones, L.

Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bainbridge, Emerson
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)

Baumont, Wentworth C. B.
Blake, Edward
Broadhurst, Henry
Caldwell, James

Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh)
 Colville, John
 Crombie, John William
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Owen Morgan
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon Sir William Brampton
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carmarvon)
 Kitson, Sir James
 Lambert, George

Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Price, Robert John
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Schwann, Charles E.

Scott, C. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas Abel (Carmarthen, E.
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
 Wallace, Robert (Perth)
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Williams, John Carvell (Notta.
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodall, William
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Goddard and Mr. Hed-
 derwick.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES.

Bill to appoint additional Commission-
 ers for executing the Acts for granting a
 Land Tax and other Rates and Taxes,
 ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury
 and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye) said
 in years gone by he had opposed the intro-
 duction of this Bill on the ground that
 it was an unnecessary measure, and also
 because there were very serious ob-
 jections which stood in the way of the
 administration of the Land Tax. This
 year some of the objections which were
 urged in years gone by were no longer
 applicable, because some of the small
 Land Tax payers were not affected to the
 same extent as they were on previous
 occasions. At the same time, although
 the opposition from them was not so
 strong as it was before, he thought there
 were serious objections to the measure,
 and although they might not be such
 as ought to be pressed to the extent
 of a Division against the first reading, it
 seemed to him that some protest ought
 to be made against the constant intro-
 duction of measures of this kind year
 after year. The whole of the existing
 system was one which required revision,
 and he earnestly trusted that the Govern-
 ment would take an early opportunity of
 not only doing away with the property
 qualification of the Land Tax Commis-

sioners, but also of handing over the Land
 Tax to the county councils, in order that
 the matter might be dealt with in a more
 equitable manner.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

To appoint additional Commissioners
 for executing the Acts for granting a
 Land Tax and other Rates and Taxes ;
 presented accordingly, and read the first
 time ; to be read a second time upon
 Thursday 1st June, and to be printed.
 [Bill 216.]

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

MR. H. J. ROBERTSON (Hackney)
 moved the insertion of the following new
 clause :—

“ With respect to a mayor of a borough
 being by virtue of his office a justice of the
 peace—(1) he shall become a justice of the
 peace for the County of London ; (2) he shall
 not be disqualified by reason of being a so-
 licitor practising or carrying on business in the
 County of London or City of London ; (3) he
 shall not practise as a solicitor before any
 justices of the County of London.”

The object of the Amendment was
 to place mayors of London boroughs in

the same position as those of provincial towns. Though London was, technically speaking, a county borough, it was nothing more than a large municipality, precisely on the same footing with, though rather larger than, Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool. It appeared to him, therefore, that there was no kind of reason why a solicitor, who was mayor, should be disqualified in London. He thought it was a great grievance that solicitors could not sit on the Bench in London. In some district councils there was great difficulty in getting a proper chairman at the present time. He knew one district where there were five solicitors on one of these bodies, four of whom had absolutely refused to accept the chairmanship because of the distinction made that they would not be justices of the peace. Under the circumstances he thought they acted very properly and rightly in refusing the office.

New clause brought up and read the first and second time and added.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to move, as a new clause, that:—

"Nothing in this Act shall authorise any borough council to alienate any recreation ground or other open space dedicated to the use of the public, or any land held on trusts which prohibit building thereon."

This Amendment is intended to prevent the provision in Clause 7 from operating in a way which I do not think the Government intended. The Committee undoubtedly knows that there are a great many recreation grounds and open spaces in London vested sometimes in vestries and sometimes in district boards, and it is very desirable to preserve them. Clause 7 would make it doubtful whether they could be preserved, and a like doubt is created by Clause 15. I therefore suggest that a saving clause would be the best way of preventing any difficulty arising.

New clause brought up and read the first and second time, and added.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs), in the absence of Mr. H. P. GREENE (Shrewsbury), moved the following new clause:—

"The places known as the Inner and Middle Temples shall for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be within the City of London."

Clause brought up and read the first and second time, and added.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said he wished to revert to a question which was held over at a previous portion of the proceedings, and which the learned Attorney-General promised to consider. The question was how to protect the tenant in the case of the sewers rate. The rate was a charge on the fee simple unless the tenant had contracted away his rights. The Bill abolished the sewers rate, and, unless some other provision were made, what was the equivalent of the sewers rate would fall as a charge on the tenant. He begged, therefore, to move the following new clause:—

"As between landlord and tenant every tenant who, if this Act had not been passed, would have been entitled to deduct against or to be repaid by his landlord any sum paid by such tenant on account of the sewers rate shall in like manner be entitled to deduct against or to be repaid by his landlord such portion of the general rate as represents the sewers rate."

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) expressed his agreement with the substance of the clause.

MR. PICKERSGILL accordingly asked the learned Attorney-General to allow it to be included in the Bill, subject to such alteration in drafting as he desired to make.

New Clause brought up and read the first and second time, and added.

Schedule 1:—

MR. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) moved to substitute for the list of areas in the Schedule:—

"The parishes included in Schedule A and districts included in Schedule B of the Metropolis Management Act of 1855 and amending Acts which have a population exceeding 100,000."

The districts which by his motion would be included in the Schedule were the following:—Bethnal Green, Hackney, Mile End, Newington, Shoreditch, and Greenwich. His object was that wherever a sufficient population existed and there was an old boundary well ascertained, and the district had long been a local government district, it would be better for the House to follow out the suggestion em-

bodied in Sub-section (b), Clause 1, and have regard to those ancient boundaries. The vestry area of Shoreditch had existed as a separate local government entity for over 100 years, and was managed under an Act which had existed for a similar period. It was one of the six great vestries under the Metropolis Management Act, 1855, which contributed two members instead of one to the Metropolitan Board of Works. Of the six vestries five were included already in the Schedule, and he earnestly urged that the sixth should be included. In this particular locality they had a large amount of local interest and honest local endeavour towards good government. The Bill was going to give greater local life to London, and they wished it to be so, and it would therefore be a pity to break up some of the historical single areas when their government was in many instances extremely satisfactory. He did not believe that the government of any of the new boroughs could be more satisfactory than that of some of the best vestries, and amongst these certainly he included the Vestry of the Parish of Shoreditch.

Amendment proposed, in page 15, line 4, to leave out all the words after "parishes" in order to insert—

"Included in Schedule A, and districts included in Schedule B, of the Metropolis Management Act of 1855 and amending Acts."
—(*Mr. Stuart.*)

Question proposed :

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (*Mr. A. J. BALFOUR*, Manchester, E.): The honourable Gentleman who has just sat down has evidently moved his Amendment in order to obtain from Her Majesty's Government any statement that we are prepared to make on the general question embodied in this schedule, and, if quite convenient to the House, I propose at this stage to add something to what I ventured to state on the second reading. I have since had a large amount of information afforded me from localities not included in the Bill as it stands. I have had petitions and representations; I have had interviews with many persons closely connected with the districts; and I have done my best to collect information. The result is, that I think I am able to advise the House to include more

areas in the schedule than it was possible to do at the time when I could not consult the local areas, and had no means of obtaining the information which has since reached me through various channels. If the House will look at the non-scheduled part of London, they will see that it naturally divides itself into six districts. The first is that included in the old Tower Hamlets borough, which includes a large number of areas, the only one of which in the present schedule is the Poplar District. There remains outside the Poplar district a large number of areas as to which various questions arise, and I confess that I have not been able to find any plan which goes to meet the necessities of good government and the local wishes of the inhabitants. As at present advised, therefore, subject to discussion that may be raised, I see no possibility of settling the questions involved except after a local inquiry.

MR. STUART: That is of the resident Borough of Tower Hamlets.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, of the resident Borough of Tower Hamlets. The area proposed is Bow, Bromley, Poplar, Mile End Old Town, St. George's in-the-East, Whitechapel.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): Does that mean that Poplar is to be taken out?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No; I see no method of dealing with this area except after local enquiry. The next area may be described as the Southwark and Newington area. Again, I see no method of dealing with this area which will satisfy the requirements of sound local Government and the wishes of the inhabitants, and so again I am driven with great reluctance to leave these districts to be decided upon after local inquiry. The third area is that of South Hackney and Stoke Newington. I do not pronounce an opinion upon it; I would like to hear what will be said upon it when we come to discuss it on the schedule. There remain what I may call the central and south-eastern areas. In regard to both of these, I am prepared to advise the Committee to add greatly to the schedule; in fact, to include the whole of these areas in the Schedule. I should suggest that in the central area we should form a

Mr. Stuart.

borough comprising the existing Parliamentary division of Holborn; another consisting of the existing Parliamentary divisions of East and Central Finsbury, these two together forming one area; an area consisting of the Parliamentary Borough of Bethnal Green, and an area comprising the Parliamentary Borough of Shoreditch. Although one or two of these areas are smaller than I would desire, there are special reasons connected with them for making them combined units of Local Government, and I believe it would be in accordance with the wishes of the local inhabitants that they should be grouped as I suggest. That disposes of the central area. There remains the great South-East of London to consider, an area not as yet very large in population, but considerable in extent, and probably with a great future before it. That area includes Deptford, Greenwich, Woolwich, and Lewisham. After carefully considering the matter, it appears to me that we cannot do better than practically adopt as areas of the new boroughs the areas found to work well as Parliamentary districts. I believe that no serious objection will be raised to placing these Parliamentary areas in the schedule, and if that were done, the whole area of South-East London would be satisfactorily disposed of. True, this arrangement of boundaries makes greater the distinction between the Poor Law and administrative areas, but I do not think that that can be avoided, and I believe that on the whole the suggestion I have made would not be unfavourably regarded by the inhabitants of the district. I have adopted the Parliamentary areas because Parliamentary life is itself a natural bond of union, and brings together the various interests of all the people concerned, and if we can make the area of Imperial institutions coincide with municipal institutions, so far a great gain is effected. It will be seen that I propose to add eight new boroughs to the schedule, which I will again read out to the Committee in order that there may be no mistake:—First, the Parliamentary division of Holborn; the second borough is constituted by the Parliamentary divisions of East and Central Finsbury; third, the Parliamentary Borough of Bethnal Green; fourth, the Parliamentary Borough of Shoreditch; fifth, Deptford; sixth, Greenwich; seventh, Lewisham; and eighth,

Woolwich. It only remains for me to note that the Parish of Lewisham has to be omitted from the present schedule in order to substitute for it the Parliamentary division of Lewisham, because Lee was not in the parish, and will have to be added in order to make the new area coincide with the Parliamentary area. I hope I have made my general proposition clear, and although I cannot hope to have satisfied the various local aspirations that have found expression in amendments, I trust I have done something material towards improving the Bill.

MR. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.) hoped that the right honourable Gentleman's mind was still open to receive some information in regard to West Southwark. That district had everything that a municipal corporation could desire for successful work.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the honourable Gentleman was entitled to discuss the general situation, but not at that stage the particular claims of a particular district.

MR. CAUSTON hoped that the right honourable Gentleman would not close the door to the claims of West Southwark.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that every member of the Committee must have been glad to hear what had fallen from the right honourable Gentleman. The only object they had in view with regard to this matter was that those areas still left to the Commissioners would be so few in number that it would be pretty obvious on what grounds they would be carried out. He was sorry that the right honourable Gentleman had not seen his way to include the Tower Hamlets.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) hoped that if West Newington was not to be included in the schedule, the right honourable Gentleman would take it into his serious consideration. There were most cogent reasons why it should be. He took it that the basis of the Bill was that a borough area should have a population of over 100,000, and a rateable value of £500,000. West Newington fulfilled both these conditions.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose to a point

of order. It would be more convenient if honourable Gentleman waited until particular districts were reached before discussing the merits of each.

MR. STUART said that after the statement made by the right honourable Gentleman, which went a very considerable way to meet his views, and also greatly improved the operation of the schedule, he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley) said that after listening to the statement made by the Leader of the House, he could not help thinking that there was a certain amount of truth in the remark made at a meeting the previous night by the leader of the Progressive party, that this Bill had ceased to be a Bill for the reform of London Government, but had become a small though not unsatisfactory Bill for the reform of the existing vestries. Honourable Members opposite no doubt would welcome such a Bill in preference to a measure on large lines for the reform of London Government. If there was one feature in the Bill that afforded an element of comic relief it was the proposal to create the district of Chelsea as a scheduled borough. At present Chelsea consisted of Chelsea proper and of the district of Kensal Town. The Royal Commission presided over by the right honourable Member for Bodmin proposed to create a borough of Chelsea, but it was to include Chelsea and the district of Kensal Town. These form one Poor Law Union, one parliamentary area and local government area. This Bill, however, proposed to take away Kensal Town from Chelsea, although the latter had only a wretched population of something like 70,000 inhabitants, and would therefore not conform to one of the principles on which the Bill was founded. The result would be that part of Kensal Town would go to Kensington, and part to Paddington, and that in both Paddington and Kensington there would be two assessing authorities. He could not see why they should create such a confusion. There was another ominous feature in regard to the proposal. Kensal Town was to be taken from Chelsea, but Knightsbridge was to be added to it.

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That was a very nice arrangement, because it would take away the poorest part of the district, and add a rich area from the neighbourhood. His idea was that they should make one borough of Chelsea and Kensington, by which all difficulties in regard to Poor Law areas and so on would be avoided, and there would be one homogeneous borough.

Amendment proposed, in page 15, column 1, line 7, to leave out "Chelsea."
—(*Mr. L. R. Holland.*)

Question proposed, "That 'Chelsea' stand part of the Schedule."

*MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea) was afraid he must take exception to the arguments of his honourable friend. Apart from his natural prejudices, he thought there were solid reasons why the object of his honourable friend should not be entertained. What they wished to do by this Bill was to carve out a certain number of districts in London which had all the requisites for good municipal areas. The primary object should be that a district should have a real local life, should have a past with traditions, and have a population interested in its local life and government. Chelsea for many years had possessed all these attributes. The proposal of his honourable friend was part of a large scheme which he had embodied in many amendments on the Paper, a scheme for what was called the tenification of London. He thought that in London they ought to have in future some large and important districts such as Greater Westminster, and also such districts as Shoreditch and Bethnal Green, which had at present a vigorous local life; and also some which, if with a smaller population, yet were kept together by a living local feeling. His honourable friend proposed to tie on to Chelsea another district, such as Kensington, which had a history, traditions, and local life of its own. He asked the Committee not to embark on such a course, but to stand fast to the principles of the Bill; and, speaking for Chelsea, he hoped the Committee would scout with proper contempt the Amendment of his honourable friend.

*SIR T. G. FARDELL (Paddington, S.) said he was in complete agreement with the general proposition of the hon-

ourable Member for Bow. He had a right to ask that the borough with which he was interested should not be prejudiced by the change to be made. The effect would be that 21,000 persons would be handed over to the tender mercies of the Boundary Commissioners and divided between Kensington and Paddington. The geographical position should have something to do with the scheme. If honourable Members would look at the map they would find that Chelsea was sandwiched between two parts of Kensington, and part of Kensington ran between two parts of Chelsea. If Chelsea and Kensington were combined for municipal purposes, a large and important borough could be created which would not interfere with any local interest whatever, and would work extremely well. Of course the objection might be urged that it would make too large a borough. They might look at it in another way. He found that Chelsea district, if it remained in the schedule as now proposed, would comprise 650 acres, whereas every one of the other 14 areas, Westminster excluded, possessed a larger acreage. Then, again, its population was 75,196, which was smaller than that of any of the other 14 areas. Again, the rateable value was £747,790. Of the other 14 areas which were scheduled ten had a larger rateable value and only four a lesser. Surely these facts afforded some ground for making an appeal to the First Lord to see whether he could not keep an open mind on this proposal. For ages past the two parishes of Chelsea and Kensington had been mixed up together, and before the Royal Commission in 1894, evidence was given in favour of the rejection of the proposal to interfere with Chelsea. He ventured to assert that if Kensington were joined to Paddington it would be a most inequitable and unfair arrangement.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My honourable friend has made a special appeal to me to yield to the Amendment. But I think he must have recognised that the course recommended by the Amendment is one which the Government cannot be expected to take. Kensington and Chelsea have not only got local traditions and a local municipal life already, but that local municipal life is one of great vigour, and the manner in which they manage their affairs may well be a model for many of the new boroughs to be created under this

Act. To attempt to take two districts which themselves make natural units, and amalgamate them together in one unnatural whole, would be very inexpedient. My honourable friend the Member for Bow and Bromley has declared that to put Chelsea in this Bill destroys it as a great measure of reform. He also quoted with approval the statement of the gentleman whom he described as the leader of the Progressive Party in the County Council, that the alterations made have entirely destroyed the innocuous character of the Bill. I fail to remember any change made during the Committee stage which has materially altered the character of the measure as I introduced it two months ago with the approval of my honourable friend. However that may be, Chelsea has been included in the first schedule from the beginning, and I utterly fail to understand why the retention of Chelsea should entirely alter the character of the Bill. I hope the Committee will not agree to the Amendment.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND said he would withdraw the Amendment, but he would like to remind the right honourable Gentleman that in his speech on the Second Reading of the Bill he observed that the ridiculous feature of the measure was the inclusion of Chelsea.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR A. SCOBLE (Hackney, Central) said he rose to move the Amendment which stood in the name of the Member for Shoreditch, the object being to insert "Hackney" after "Fulham." He said his constituents very much objected to any partition of the existing parish of Hackney, because that would do away with local traditions and dislocate local life. The present Parliamentary borough comprised three divisions—North, South, and Central. The poorer classes resided in the South and Central districts, while the wealthier classes were to be found in the North, and he did not think it would be desirable that there should be any separation which could only lead to much trouble, vexation, and inconvenience to all engaged in the local administration of the parish. He would have preferred that the Parliamentary borough should be identical with the municipal borough, but Stoke Newington objected to this. He could only say that if Stoke Newington liked to

rejoin Hackney they would be glad to receive it.

Amendment proposed, in page 15, column 1, line 8—

"After 'Fulham' to insert 'Hackney.'"
(*Sir A. Scoble.*)

Question proposed "That 'Hackney' be there inserted."

MR. H. J. ROBERTSON said they had now come to the second district of which the First Lord spoke, and which he said was specially reserved for debate, as he wished to hear the arguments stated. This was not a complicated area like Tower Hamlets, and there were only three ways of settling the difficulty—first by throwing Hackney and Stoke Newington into one, secondly by keeping them apart, and thirdly by cutting off the North, or richest part of Hackney, and uniting it with Stoke Newington, which, in itself, was a rich district. The third plan would certainly not be approved of locally, and he was confident the House would not assent to it. The First Lord had always stated that he did not want ancient parishes divided, and if there was one form of division which was more objectionable than any other it was that which cut off the richest part of a parish. There could be no difficulty in making Hackney a borough in itself, and it was clear that but for the case of Stoke Newington, Hackney would have been a scheduled area. The only difficulty in fact arose from Stoke Newington. The latter was a small area, but it was one considerably increasing in population, and it would be augmented to an appreciable extent under this Bill. On its borders there was a very large town growing up, and he had no doubt that in process of time that neighbouring district would want to come into the county of London. Stoke Newington would be what might be called a first-class borough, other districts might like to join it, and it would be free to receive additions to it from the county of Middlesex. Stoke Newington was separated from Hackney eight years ago, and local feeling was opposed to the two districts being joined together again. If they divided the parish of Hackney they would create a city of the rich in the northern part and a city of the poor in the southern part. Though this was a difficult question, it

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was not a complicated one, and these two districts ought not to be put to the expense of going before the Commissioners to decide it.

MR. STUART said he was, of course, aware that the borough of Hackney caused a good deal of difficulty to the Government, but he was inclined to think that the decision in regard to this question might as well be made by that House. The difficulty arose in regard to Stoke Newington, and there was only one way of solving it. Hackney was united to Stoke Newington for a great many years under the Metropolis Management Act, 1855, and the feuds between the two parts of the then district of Hackney and Stoke Newington were interminable and intolerable. The result was that, by mutual consent, they obtained a separation, each place came in consequence to be governed by its own vestry, and he did not see how they could be put together again. It was possible to take North Hackney and add it to Stoke Newington, but if they did that they would get into an extreme difficulty about rateable value. North Hackney had a rateable value of £8 per head of the population, and the remainder of the parish had only a rateable value of about £4 5s. That was a solution he did not like to face. The only other course would be to leave Hackney alone and to leave the Commissioners to deal with Stoke Newington in the one way that it could reasonably be dealt with, and that was by adding to it portions of the county of Middlesex, which together had a population representing nearly 20,000 people. By that means the borough of Stoke Newington would have a population of 50,000, and, though it would be the smallest borough in London, the anomaly would be a gradually diminishing one, because the population in this district was rapidly increasing. When dividing London up into boroughs they could not avoid creating some anomalies as to size.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This question of Hackney and Stoke Newington has caused about as much embarrassment to those who have had to consider the question of areas as any other question in the Bill. It is true that the question is simple, and is not complicated like the questions connected with Southwark and the Tower Hamlets. You have not before you a

series of possible alternatives. In this case no doubt you have very plain alternatives, with regard to which it is hard to see that a local inquiry would put the inquirers into a better position than the Committee are in at the present time. There are three and only three possible methods of dealing with this area. You might divide the whole area into north and south divisions, but the objections to that are almost insuperable, as it would not only cut up a district that is an historical entity, but would divide the rateable value in a most inconvenient manner. He rejects, therefore, that method. The second alternative is to make the whole area one borough and to require Hackney and Stoke Newington, much against their will, to live under one municipal organisation. The objection to that is that there appears to be great ill-feeling and mutual ill-will—it almost amounts to that—between the inhabitants of the two districts, and Parliament having considered this very case and gone carefully into it by the machinery of a Select Committee has actually decided that this ill-assorted couple shall no longer be required to live together. It would be a very serious thing to forcibly join together those who are thus put assunder, and I do not think it would be possible for the Committee to take the responsibility of such a course. The third method is to leave the historical parish of Hackney undivided and untouched, and allow Stoke Newington, with or without additions from the neighbouring county of Middlesex, to form a borough by itself. There is, as far as I know, but one objection to that, but it is, from my point of view, a serious objection. It is an objection founded upon the small size of the possible Stoke Newington municipality. Whether additions from Middlesex are made to it or not it must remain abnormally and exceptionally small, although not perhaps in area. We must, therefore, face the fact that if we adopt this third course we shall be creating a borough which is smaller than the rest of the boroughs and smaller than we desire to see. I am not aware that any local inquiry would elicit new facts or find out any arguments with which we are not thoroughly conversant. I conceive, therefore, that the Commissioners would be driven to make Hackney into a separate borough and Stoke Newington into a separate borough, and would have to justify that course by submitting

a special Report to Parliament. That would be a heavy responsibility to throw upon them, and I should be glad to relieve them of it. Having heard what has fallen from honourable Gentlemen on both sides of the House, I have reluctantly, but decidedly, come to the conclusion that perhaps we had better face the responsibility ourselves and decide that Hackney shall be constituted a separate municipality, even if it involves the inevitable inconveniences which I have endeavoured to describe. I am, therefore, prepared to accept the Amendment.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said he was in a position of great difficulty which disqualified him, unfortunately, from giving a vote on the Amendment. One section of his constituents, those residing at Stoke Newington, would be pleased with the decision which the First Lord had announced, for it would relieve them of a nightmare, and they would no longer fear that their position would be disturbed by the Bill. But with regard to the other part of his constituency (North Hackney), he was in the greatest difficulty, because by scheduling Hackney they would be deprived of the chance of going before the Boundary Commissioners and urging that the North Division of Hackney should be joined to Stoke Newington. He was, therefore, compelled to move an Amendment excepting North Hackney from the area, as he did not see any other way in which he could lay the views of that portion of his constituents before the Committee. Now they complained that their wants had hitherto been practically unattended to. The roads in that important neighbourhood had been utterly neglected. Large sums were spent in Mare Street, the commercial portion of the parish, with which North Hackney had nothing in common, and money levied over the whole district was chiefly expended outside North Hackney. Indeed the representatives of that division of the parish found themselves unable to obtain a hearing at the Hackney Vestry, and when there were proposals to expend large sums, very little of which would be devoted to North Hackney, they were actually closed if they raised any opposition. An endeavour had been made to obtain the views of the ratepayers of North Hackney upon this question. A poll had been taken, the result being that in that portion of Hackney which was in-

cluded in his constituency, 4,086 voted for the connection with Stoke Newington and only 448 for continuing the connection with Hackney. Again as regarded rateable value he would like to point out that the rateable value of that portion of Hackney which he represented, bore almost identically the same proportion to population as did the rest of Hackney. Under these circumstances he begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After 'Hackney' to insert 'except the portion thereof included in the Parliamentary division of North Hackney'"—(*Mr. Bousfield.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said that having a personal acquaintance with the grievances of the inhabitants of Stoke Newington, he felt their case would be a difficult one to fight before the Boundary Commissioners, because of its comparatively small rateable value. It was true that Stoke Newington, with Hornsey, would be the smallest area, but it would not long occupy that unique position. As regarded good management and everything which went to constitute those conditions which the right honourable Gentleman laid down as necessary to form an exemplary area, he was quite sure that Stoke Newington would prove itself as good as any other part.

MR. LOWLES (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said his honourable friend had made the best of a very bad case. Stoke Newington formerly formed part of the Parliamentary borough of Hackney, and he, having resided for many years in North Hackney, would like to see them rejoined, as he held that the Parliamentary borough was the best unit for municipal purposes. There was, however, a strong local feeling against reunion, and he thought the First Lord had taken the best possible course on the matter. He hoped that the opportunity would be taken to cut off those outlying parts of Middlesex which were of no use to Middlesex, but which would be useful in making Stoke Newington a more compact borough. On the whole,

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however, he congratulated the Government on having settled a dispute which would have been interminable had it been left to local decision.

Question put and negatived.

Original Amendment again proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, column 2, line 7, to leave out 'Lewisham'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question, "That Lewisham stand part of the Schedule," put and negatived.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said he was anxious, as one of the Members for Tower Hamlets, that the Committee should decide upon the area of the remaining portion, apart from Hackney, without its being referred to the Boundary Commission. The Government had decided that Bethnal Green should be a borough by itself, and that had removed the chief obstacle to the Amendment he was about to propose. He saw no difficulty in the way of settling the areas for the rest of Tower Hamlets. His proposal was, that Mile End Old Town should be scheduled as a borough. Mile End had a population of 111,060 and a rateable value of £400,000. That brought it within the scope of the Bill, because the limit of population was 100,000 and the minimum of rateable value £400,000. In the year 1809 it had a population of 9,488 and a rateable value of £18,225, so that in ninety-eight years its population had increased by over 100,000 and its rateable value by £381,000 odd. He compared, therefore, both its population and its rateable value with three parishes already scheduled in the Bill, namely, Hammersmith, Chelsea, and Hampstead. In all those three cases they found that the population was lower than that of Mile End, while the acreage and rateable value was slightly larger. But after all, taking into consideration its population and its rateable value, he considered that Mile End had just claims on the First Lord of the Treasury to be made a borough in itself. On the second reading of the Bill, they listened to a very interesting historical lecture by the honourable Member for Westminster, in reference to the past history of that

place. Well, he claimed that Mile End had an historical record equal to that of Westminster. In the past many judges and bishops had resided there, and their residences are still in existence in close proximity to Stepney Green. It also has a number of almshouses belonging to the Skinners Company and twelve almshouses founded by Judge Elliot in 1592, for poor men past labour. One historian said Stepney was known as a city 1,100 years before the birth of Christ. In 1299, in the time of King Edward I., a Parliament assembled at Stepney in the house which was then occupied by the Lord Mayor of London, and that Parliament confirmed the charter of their liberty. He thought he had now given sufficient history to convince the First Lord of the Treasury that Stepney had some good local traditions and had a fair claim to be included in the schedule as a borough council.

Amendment proposed, in page 15, column 2, line 7—

“After ‘Fulham,’ to insert ‘Mile End Old Town.’”—(*Mr. Steadman.*)

Question proposed, “That ‘Mile End Old Town’ be there inserted.”

MR. CHARRINGTON (Tower Hamlets, Mile End) said he could not agree with the proposal which had been made by his honourable friend. He was in favour of the proposal of the Government, because he believed that better local government would be secured by having large municipalities.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON did not think he could support the proposal of his honourable friend behind him, but he should like to know if the Government could consider the Tower Hamlets as a whole. There were nine areas left out of the schedule, and surely they could arrive at a sufficient agreement to dispense with the Commissioners dealing with it. He was inclined to think that there might be two divisions in the Tower Hamlets, namely, Limehouse and Mile End, and Whitechapel and St. George's, for they had that evening included a considerable number of very small areas. He did appeal to the Government to put them out of their misery and allow the Tower Hamlets to be scheduled in some way or other, and not leave the question to be decided by the Commissioners.

MR. H. S. SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse), said he desired to register a very strong protest against any such idea as that of scheduling Bow and Bromley and leaving the rest as one borough. When they considered that the population would be 300,000, and the rateable value £1,400,000, it seemed much larger than some of the areas with which they had been dealing. There was a proposition to make the whole of the Tower Hamlets one municipality, but that would make a population of half a million and a rateable value of over £2,000,000, which he thought was much too large for one municipality. As the representative of Limehouse he desired to say that the feeling of his constituents was strongly in favour of joining with the poor law union of Mile End Old Town, and they suggested that having regard to history they wished to be called the Corporation of Stepney, because that was the division which had the largest historical interest. Stepney had a claim in many other ways, and he protested most strongly against dealing with the rest of the Tower Hamlets in the way that had been suggested.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND said he should like to consider what was the alternative before the Committee. It had been proposed, in the first place, that there should be two municipalities in the Tower Hamlets. Another proposal was that the borough of Poplar should be scheduled, and that then the rest of the Tower Hamlets should be left to the Commissioners. When, however, they came to consider how this was to be done they found disagreement existing. The honourable Member for Stepney proposed that Mile End should stand by itself, but the honourable Member for Limehouse said that would not do. Then the honourable Member for Whitechapel said they must have Whitechapel alone and leave out Mile End. One thing they all appeared to be agreed upon, and that was that they had all determined not to amalgamate with the poorest part of the Tower Hamlets, which was St. George's, and surely that was entirely wrong. It was impossible to make any division which would respect and conserve any of the historical boundaries there. There was only one ancient area and historical boundary in East London around which a good many associations clustered, and that was the historical boundary and area

of the Tower Hamlets, which, if constituted as one area, would make a borough of considerable importance, which would carry out the principle and view which this Bill was introduced for, and which would contain in itself all the different Poor Law districts, and which would not involve the constant cutting-up of areas which any other distribution must of necessity involve, for the Tower Hamlets as a whole was a homogeneous area. He did not for a moment contend that this proposal would be received with rapture in many parts of East London, and the only communications he had received upon the subject had been violent protests from the vestries against this proposal. In this matter, however, they should not consider what was popular, but what would be most beneficial, and he supported this idea because he believed that it would add to the efficiency and economy of local government in those districts, and would also add to the dignity and importance of the local authority for that district. Of course every argument which supported the constitution of Westminster as a city also went to support the constitution of a large borough in a poor district like the Tower Hamlets. It must necessarily be advantageous and more economical to administer a large district rather than have a number of small districts, and they should remember that even under this Bill they had transferred powers to the local authorities which would afford an immense opportunity for jobbery and for people getting on to the council to exercise their power without regard to the interests of the people. This kind of thing was far too prevalent in London, and the only way to prevent jobbery was to make the areas so large and important that it was difficult and almost impossible for men to combine on the council to push their own interests. It was better to have a large area, because then the system of equalisation would operate more fairly. He knew that in the view he was placing before the Committee he had not the support of the local vestries in his own constituency, but he maintained that it was unjust to divide and make a separate borough of an area which was so poor and which had so little opportunity of development as the proposed borough of Poplar. Therefore, for the sake of efficiency and economy, and of getting rid of many undesirable influences, he thought

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the whole of the Tower Hamlets was the right borough to create.

*SIR SAMUEL MONTAGU (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel) said he was perfectly certain that the City, some time or other, would absorb Whitechapel, and therefore for the present he would much rather that it should remain as it was. Having regard to the fact that the adjoining borough of Bethnal Green was to be a separate borough under the new Act, he saw no reason why Whitechapel should not also be a separate borough. There was no reason for its being merged in the proposed large borough. It had a population of nearly 80,000, and he was certainly opposed to the proposal of the honourable Member for Bow that the Tower Hamlets should be constituted one borough, but if it was not possible for the right honourable Gentleman to accept his Amendment and to make it a separate borough, he would prefer to take all the remaining Tower Hamlets together—Mile End, Limehouse, Whitechapel, and St. George's-in-the-East—and although then it would be a very large borough, it would be smaller in area, though larger in rating and population, than Poplar.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have listened with great interest and attention, but with some perplexity of mind, to this discussion; but I am perfectly clear about one thing: I am prepared, of course, and I daresay we shall all be driven to leave this matter to the Commissioners. It is not the best course, I admit. There are two courses which I could adopt. One is to make the whole of the Tower Hamlets one borough, but that is a course which, I believe, will not meet with general support, and which will not be accepted by the House; the other course is to leave one part of the area as it is scheduled in the Bill and to schedule the other part as one area. That is opposed by the honourable Member for Limehouse and the honourable Member for St. George's-in-the-East. I have no ground for thinking that they would differ from the view that the area I now suggest would be acceptable, but if that is the general view of the House on both sides I should be prepared to accept it. But if there is any general opposition from any quarter, then I think the matter must be referred to local enquiry.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that he

thought the proposals which had been made by the right honourable Gentleman would be met with approval and support, although the honourable Member for Bow and Bromley would naturally prefer the larger borough. There was no doubt that he would agree to the suggestions which had been thrown out. There was only one suggestion which he wished to make, which was that the right honourable Gentleman's proposals should be embodied in the Bill subject to the matter being considered on Report. If there was found to be a very strong feeling in the Tower Hamlets against the proposal, then of course that would have to be considered. He thought that the right honourable Gentleman should be entitled to reserve his opinion with regard to the matter, but at the same time he thought the proposals should be introduced into the Bill at this stage.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not object to that proposal. It must be distinctly understood that I reserve my liberty to judge of the facts that come to my knowledge between this and the Report stage. I am sorry that the honourable Member for Limehouse does not agree, but as the preponderance of opinion appears to be in favour of this we must accept it.

MR. STUART expressed the opinion that the proposal was a wise one, inasmuch as it enabled the Committee to put before the constituencies a distinct scheme which they could decide upon far better than if it were in any other form, and he thought the postponing the matter to the Report stage, if necessary, was a very wise plan.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND was of opinion that the plan which had been proposed was the plan least calculated of all that they could have fixed upon to improve matters. The proposal was to take the two poorest districts and form them into one borough; to take away their opportunities of sharing the expense of their government with that of a better circumstanced and better placed district, and leave them to bear and exercise the powers which are to be transferred under the Bill, but which hitherto have been centralised and classed upon a common basis. They would have now to pay all the expense themselves. With regard to the powers to be transferred the honour-

able Member pointed out that there were many important powers which it would be impossible to transfer to poor districts of this kind, and which even were it possible to transfer them, could not be exercised with advantage or economy by a working-class district of London. The position, therefore, was that whenever in future it was proposed to transfer further powers to the different districts of London the objection would be raised that the powers were not suitable to the locality, and the poverty of the locality would stand as an absolute bar against that future development and municipal knowledge of the people which this Bill was brought in to promote. He objected to a small area in Chelsea, but a small area in a rich district was not half so bad in his opinion as a small area in a poor one. The area in question was wholly unsuited to be scheduled in the Bill. All the Bill did so far as he could see in the district of Poplar was to take the area of the District Board of Works, call it a borough, and give it a council with a mayor and aldermen. It did nothing to improve the government of the district or the condition of the people or ease them of any part of the burden which they now had to bear. He condemned the whole proposal. He agreed with Dr. Collins' statement that it was a mere vestry reform bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This, I assume, is the last time which my honourable friend desires to put before the Committee the views upon this question which he has placed before it on other occasions with so much persistency. I can only say that I think his criticisms are wholly unfounded. My honourable friend apparently would regard this Bill as a very good Bill if we introduced into it his particular scheme, which would constitute a borough in the East End of London larger than almost any other borough, and which would reach the highest limit of a borough in any part of the kingdom. That is the plan he wants us to adopt. The proposal we actually make leaves him in Poplar—in that part of the old Tower Hamlets with a population of 170,000, and will leave the population of the remaining part at 300,000. In other words there are not more than four or five boroughs in England larger than those which we propose to constitute in this district. Yet this is the measure which

is regarded by my honourable friend as so petty and contemptible that he searches the speeches of political opponents to find language which is scathing enough for its condemnation. The proposal we have accepted divides this enormous population into two districts with distinct councils, and that appears to be more acceptable than the proposal of my honourable friend, who must have observed that he has no support in any quarter of the House.

MR. H. S. SAMUEL expressed the opinion that the plan of the honourable Member for Bow and Bromley was infinitely better than the scheme of the right honourable Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury. He did not see any reason for cutting off one small corner of this district, which was also the poorest portion, and leaving the other part, which was of large rateable value, to form a large corporation. He protested most earnestly against the proposal of the right honourable Gentleman; he objected to their being taken out of the hands of the Commissioners and divided as was suggested by the proposal, and was of opinion that if the Tower Hamlets was divided into two corporations it would be very much against the wishes of the great proportion of the inhabitants of that district. As the lesser evil he begged the right honourable Gentleman to leave it to the Commissioners to settle the districts.

MR. STEADMAN said that in his opinion the honourable Member for Bow and Bromley was acting very inconsistently, because having spoken and voted in favour of the Bill, he was now doing his best to belittle it. The honourable Member complained that the Tower Hamlets was not made into one municipality, and he complained that Poplar was very poor, and under this Bill would get no relief. But every one of the other Tower Hamlets were equally poor—Mile End for instance. In Poplar and Bow and Bromley the population were better off than in any of the other Tower Hamlets. It appeared to him (Mr. Steadman) that nobody was going to get his own way as to the schedule of the Bill, and that being so there must be some compromise. As he was unable to persuade the Government to form Mile End into a separate municipality, he was prepared to support the proposal of the

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First Lord of the Treasury, who he sincerely hoped would carry out the idea which he had foreshadowed. Having come to that conclusion he begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

CAPTAIN NORTON: Seeing the importance of the Amendment standing in my name—

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): Is the First Lord of the Treasury going to move the Schedule?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should much prefer that course. It certainly would be most convenient.

*THE CHAIRMAN: It is impossible to move the Schedule now, because as it now stands that cannot be done, I think, until we reach the conclusion of the parishes.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that no doubt technically that was so, but at the same time it would give great satisfaction to the East End to have a definite announcement from the First Lord of the Treasury.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think, perhaps, we might break into the lot of parishes here, although it may not be quite in order. I suggest that we should first put in the parishes, and then put in districts, and then take up the parishes again.

Amendment proposed, in page 15, column 2, line 7—

"To insert after the word 'Lambeth' the words 'the areas of Mile End Old Town and St. George's-in-the-East and the districts of Limehouse and Whitechapel.'"—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY suggested that the method that should be adopted was to take the parishes down to "Lambeth," and then insert the areas, and then go back to parishes. It would read perfectly grammatically, and he thought it could be easily done.

Amendment proposed to the proposed amendment —

“After the word ‘Whitechapel’ to insert the words ‘and Poplar.’” —(*Mr. H. S. Samuel.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘and Poplar’ stand part of the proposed Amendment.”

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON called attention to the fact that by this method of dealing with these particular areas two of the poorest parishes were joined together and two of the more rich, and one was left between.

MR. L. R. HOLLAND said it occurred to him that while this matter was before the Committee it would be, perhaps, as well to get the areas right. To do that the Government would have to leave out part of St. Mary's, Whitechapel, which was included in the City.

Question put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

CAPTAIN NORTON moved to include Newington among the boroughs, and said, having regard to the importance of the district he had strong grounds for his Amendment. The very titles “Newington Butts” and “Newington Causeway” showed how ancient the borough was. Its present population is 123,000, and its rateable value £517,000. In 1885, it sent two members to Parliament, and in 1888 four members to the County Council. It was a district which had been admirably governed in the past, and in fact, it was the pioneer of local self-government. If it was joined under this Bill to another parish the effect would be to nullify the state of perfection which they had attained, because it would be impossible for the other parish to at once come up to the level of Newington in the excellence of its drainage system and other matters upon which it had spent many thousands of pounds in the past.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 15, column 2, line 7, after ‘Fulham’ to insert ‘Newington.’” —(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed, “That ‘Newington’ stand part of Schedule.”

MR. JAMES BAILEY (Walworth) said he desired to draw the attention of the

Committee to the suitability of Newington as a municipality. The right honourable Gentleman the Leader of the House had made many concessions during the debate, and he had that day learned that the Government had granted a municipality for Shoreditch and Bethnal Green. If they were suitable for municipalities he thought Newington was eminently suitable. There was one thing he was more than surprised at, and that was that Chelsea was made a separate municipality. Chelsea was smaller in area than Newington, and if Chelsea was granted a municipality he thought Newington, having regard alike to its historical associations, its population, and its rateable value, should be granted one too.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER said he had listened with very great interest to the speech of the honourable and gallant Member opposite (Captain Norton), who had recounted to the Committee the good deeds and merits of Newington. He only hoped that it would not be necessary for the honourable Gentlemen who represented other divisions of London to give them similar accounts. He quite recognised that the district had certain features and elements which made it suitable to be a separate municipality, but surely the honourable and gallant Member opposite and his honourable friend behind him (Mr. Bailey) must recognise that the question could not be considered in an isolated way. It was absolutely necessary to consider the geographical area and relation of the surrounding districts to it, and whether they were so interlaced that they could all be worked together.

MR. STUART said the Attorney-General seemed to be in a Rip Van Winkle state about the Bill. He forgot that, with the exception of four districts, the whole of London had now been scheduled. Those districts involved altogether a population of about 300,000, and formed a rateable value of about £1,500,000. He must say he did not think there was any area in London that could make out a better case to be treated as a separate area than Newington. He did not wish to deal with the merits of Newington, which had been so admirably placed before the Committee by the Member for Newington. But was it worth while making two bites at a cherry? They had now got the whole

of London scheduled, and he ventured to think that they should deal with Newington in a similar way to Whitechapel. In the case of this particular district he did not see why a definite arrangement might not be come to now. They could then leave the people who belonged to those districts to criticise the definite proposal, and they would be able to make their representations to their Members and others before the Report stage, and those representations could be considered. If at that stage there was such a conflict of local opinion that they did not see their way as a House of Commons to settle the matter, Newington might be withdrawn from the schedule, and the contending parties referred to the Commissioners. The same arguments as to ancient boundaries applied to Newington as to other London districts. The Committee's instructions to the Commissioners were that they were to have regard to those boundaries, and if that were done he thought they would feel it very necessary to take the view that Newington should be left by itself.

MR. CAUSTON said that as Member for West Southwark he would like to support the suggestion of his honourable friend the Member for Shoreditch. Personally he would be delighted to see West Newington made into a separate borough, but not unless the present division of West Southwark were also constituted a separate borough. As a Parliamentary area it had a rateable value of £554,000, although the population was only 64,447. He wanted the Committee to remember when looking at population that the West Southwark division was very similar to the City of London. Business was transacted in warehouses and manufactories, and the day population was very much larger than that given in the Census returns. The division itself was admirably fitted to become a municipal area, and work would be found which would command the services of men who would be willing to serve in the incorporation. There were large and important charities, a grammar school, free public library, baths, washhouses, public markets, polytechnics, and two workhouses. In fact, there was no Parliamentary area in London more fitted for a municipal corporation than West Southwark. Without any disrespect to the honourable Members for Rother-

Mr. Stuart.

hithe or Bermondsey, there was one thing they desired more than anything, and that was that they should not be tacked on to Rotherhithe or Bermondsey. They would work more harmoniously, if necessity arose, with West Newington. He would, in the interest of peace and good government, earnestly solicit the First Lord of the Treasury to end the proceedings that evening as peacefully as they had begun, and to make West Southwark a separate borough.

MR. LOWLES said that having got all they wanted in North London, he would support what honourable Members wanted for South London. Personally, he would like to see Southwark included in the City, for it had practically a City population, but he really did not see why it should not be treated as a separate entity. He also did not see how the Government could resist the demand of West Newington to be constituted a separate borough, since it fulfilled all the conditions as to population and rateable value.

*COLONEL HUGHES (Woolwich) said he had noticed that the representatives of those districts which had high rates desired to annex themselves to the districts where the rates were low, and that the low-rated districts resisted incorporation with the high-rated districts. Amalgamation, however, should not be governed by a question of rates. Districts ought to assist one another. Perhaps it would be well to group the whole of the boroughs in the district under the head of Southwark, and upon that definite proposition objections could be discussed at a later stage.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought that the argument in the case of West Newington was stronger than in the case of Tower Hamlets. They ought to schedule the remaining five districts. They had now scheduled $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions of the population of London, and left only 350,000 to be dealt with. They would be stultifying themselves if they were unable to agree to schedule these five remaining districts, subject to alteration on report after proper argument. The question of rating did not in his opinion enter into the matter at all.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE (Plymouth)

agreed that it was very desirable to put some definite propositions in the Bill; but he hoped his right honourable friend would not be too easily tempted to make proposals of separation in the Bill. If proposals were to be considered between that stage and Report they should be for union rather than separation. The proceedings that evening had shown one thing, and that was with what extraordinary skill this scheme had been brought before the House. If the Government had started by proposing the arrangement which, by general consent, had found its place in the schedule of the Bill, they would have aroused antagonism all over London, whereas they had now succeeded in bringing a great deal of harmony into the proceedings. In regard to Rotherhithe and Bermondsey, which he at one time represented, he thought they ought to be united in one constituency. Their boundaries and their size seemed to mark them out naturally as being adapted to form a very important municipality. But he could not see any reason for separating Southwark and Newington. United, they would make a more useful and important corporation than either Southwark or Newington would alone. He would have liked to see, indeed, an important part of Southwark united to the City, which in fact he had attempted to deal with some time ago. It was suggested that inasmuch as they had set up one anomaly in the North of London in the case of Stoke Newington, there was no objection to setting up another in the South of London in the case of Southwark. But the cases were not at all parallel. There would be very soon a considerable influx of population into Stoke Newington, but in all probability the residential population of Southwark would become smaller and smaller. He trusted that the right honourable Gentleman the Leader of the House would decide to divide this district into two areas, and not three; one consisting of Rotherhithe and Bermondsey, and the other Southwark and West Newington.

CAPTAIN NORTON said that nothing whatever had been urged in any speech which had been delivered on either side of the House against West Newington being made a borough by itself. All that had been said was that West Newington was to be penalised on account of its peculiar position. What was the

difficulty about West Southwark? It was not that it was unimportant, or that its rateable value was too low, but that it happened to have only a population of from 64,000 to 70,000. But that was the night population; it had a very much larger day population. They could settle this question speedily and amicably. What he suggested was that they should put in the schedule West Newington as one borough, then Bermondsey and Rotherhithe as another, and then, as a somewhat smaller but not less important borough, West Southwark.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think this is the most difficult problem we have had to deal with in connection with the division of London into boroughs, and I do not pretend that any of the solutions offered have been thoroughly satisfactory. But this, at all events, appears to be clear—namely, that there are only two courses which I can recommend the Committee to consider. One is the course of leaving the whole consideration of the problem raised by this area to the decision of the Commissioners at a local inquiry, the other is to divide the area into two boroughs—one borough to consist of Rotherhithe and Bermondsey, the other of Newington and West Southwark. I thoroughly sympathise with the view of the honourable Gentleman who has just sat down. The honourable Gentleman represents a portion of a borough which is honourably distinguished as a sanitary authority and for the excellence of its work, but at the same time, to make a stereotyped arrangement now, without regard to the necessities of the adjoining area of Southwark, would be impossible, without an amount and kind of local inquiry which this Committee can hardly be expected to engage in. If we are to separate Newington from the rest of the area it must be done after local inquiry and in consequence of local inquiry. If we are to determine here and now what is to be the division of the area, then I cannot consent to its being subdivided into three fractions, and I shall ask the Committee to divide it into the two portions I have suggested as a provisional arrangement. In dealing with the western portion of the old constituency of Tower Hamlets the honourable Gentleman spoke of the decision come to as a provisional one, and I shall have to repeat, with almost double emphasis, that if we

come to a provisional decision now, it must be on the lines I have indicated. I am, therefore, forced to resist the Amendment of my honourable friend.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked his honourable friend to accept the compromise offered by the First Lord of the Treasury, and which was suggested by the honourable and learned Member for Plymouth. He took it that really the suggestion was that that St. Olave's Union should constitute one area and St. Saviour's the other.

CAPTAIN NORTON said he thought that under the circumstances, although he was naturally bound in some measure to support the views of those he was there to represent, he had better accept the suggestion of the First Lord of the Treasury, which, he frankly admitted, was one of the best provisional arrangements that could be made. He took it that under no circumstances would the right honourable Gentleman divide the existing area of West Southwark, and that if they were to be joined to another district they would be joined to West Southwark as a whole. West Southwark was divided into three wards, and the one nearest to West Newington was, perhaps, the poorest ward in the whole of London, namely, the parish of St. George-the-Martyr. It was, consequently, important that West Newington, if joined to West Southwark, should be joined to that parish as a whole, and not merely to one part of it.

MR. CAUSTON said he took it that the suggestion of the right honourable Gentleman was to take the Parliamentary divisions of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, and that he cordially approved of.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last inserted to insert 'the area of the Parliamentary division of Holborn.'"—(*The Solicitor-General.*)

MR. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.) said he rose to oppose this Amendment. The Parliamentary division of Holborn represented a population of 66,000 persons and a large aggregation of learned Members'

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

Inns, and practically it could not increase in population. It would be somewhat extraordinary to make a borough with a population of 66,000, and he would suggest the fusion of Holborn with the East and Central divisions of Finsbury, which had a population of considerably over 100,000. These two divisions of Finsbury were poor and highly rated, and their rich neighbour, Holborn, really formed a portion of the old Parliamentary borough. If they accepted this suggestion they would be merely doing what would have been done if West Southwark had been made a borough. It was a place of declining population and increasing value, and he did suggest that it would be most unfair to leave these two divisions of Finsbury to form a borough by themselves.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE said his honourable and learned friend was mistaken in saying that the population of Holborn was diminishing. The character of the buildings that were now arising in Holborn to house people would probably materially increase the number of the population. Strong representations had been made to his right honourable friend by Members on both sides of the House connected with this division, and the Government considered—he hoped the Committee would think rightly—that this Holborn division would be capable of making an excellent municipality. St. Luke's would be associated with Clerkenwell. There were no local jealousies that he was aware of that would prevent that union, which would be a natural solution of the difficulty which arose in this case.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed, to insert, "the area of the Parliamentary divisions of East and Central Finsbury."

Amendment agreed to.

Further amendment proposed, to insert, "The areas of the Parliamentary boroughs of Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, Deptford, Greenwich, Lewisham, and Woolwich."

Amendment agreed.

MR. ROBERT WALLACE (Perth) said he had to move the omission of the word "Wandsworth" from the schedule. He

need not say that he did not propose this with the idea of depriving Wandsworth of municipal institutions, but he did it for the purpose of moving an Amendment subsequently which would practically mean that Wandsworth should be divided into two areas. In moving the Amendment he was carrying out the wishes of the districts concerned, as both the parishes of Wandsworth proper and of Streatham had passed resolutions practically unanimously in favour of the division. His Amendment had relation to what was called the Wandsworth district, and not to the parish as such. The Wandsworth district consisted of a union of parishes which had no interests in common, and it extended from Putney Bridge on the one side to Herne Hill on the other. It was double the area of any proposed borough, and it was divided into two almost equal portions by the commons of Streatham and Wandsworth. His idea in moving the omission now was that he proposed to move hereafter that it should be formed into two separate boroughs. The population of Wandsworth district was 300,000, of which 100,000 was in the half known as Streatham and the adjacent neighbourhood, and 100,000 was in Streatham parish. He pointed out that within 15 years the population had more than doubled, and at the present time was increasing in the same ratio. This increase was not confined to one portion, but to both halves. There was still a large building area which was being gradually covered, and in a few years, in his opinion, these two boroughs, if the Amendment which he proposed to move was carried, would be among the largest boroughs of London. The rateable value of the Wandsworth district was £1,400,000, of which £580,000 was contributed by Wandsworth parish, whilst the Streatham half represented £800,000. The rateable value also within the last 13 years had doubled. The District Board of Works governed the whole of Wandsworth at the present time, but it had been found exceedingly difficult to do it by one board, and the result had been that the Streatham members and the Wandsworth members had been turned into separate committees for the purpose of governing each part of the district. Both parts of the district earnestly desired the change which he suggested, but the difficulty he felt was that the Wandsworth in the Bill was not the Wandsworth that he

proposed. His proposition really was to omit the word Wandsworth in order afterwards to insert other words. He apprehended that at the present time he would be out of order in moving the division of the districts into two parts.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps at the present time it will be sufficient to omit the words "and Wandsworth."

MR. ROBERT WALLACE (Perth) agreed. He stated his desire was to make Wandsworth and Putney one division, and Streatham, Tooting, and Clapham another.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, line 12 of the Schedule, to leave out the words 'and Wandsworth.'"—(*Mr. Robert Wallace.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words 'and Wandsworth' stand part of the Schedule."

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth) was struck by the fact that this particular Amendment should be moved by an honourable Member who represented a constituency North of the Tweed. That gentleman, however, was a most noble opponent at an election for Wandsworth fifteen years previously. He accepted cordially his co-operation in this matter. The Wandsworth described in the Bill was certainly not the one which he desired to reconstruct. It was not the Parliamentary constituency which he himself represented. It included that and Clapham, Balham, Streatham, and other places. It was scheduled in the shape in which it was because it was put under the local government of the local Board of Works of Wandsworth, and under that Board it had been well governed; but the government under that Board and under this Bill differed in one important respect, and though everybody agreed that under the old scheme it was well governed, it was not known whether there was a preponderance of opinion in favour of the new régime. The parishes under the old régime made and bore their own rates, because, as it had been pointed out, men in the different parishes were formed into different committees for each parish, and each parish bore its own burden. Under the new era the general burden of the rates was spread over the whole, and it was for that reason that

many who were content with the present state of things were not content to adopt the new. The honourable Member himself felt that he was in an unfortunate position, because his own constituents were divided upon the question, and he had been unable to ascertain on which side the preponderance of opinion lay. He had sought highly respected opinions on both sides, with no satisfactory result. It was under these circumstances that he had brought certain representative gentlemen to the First Lord of the Treasury to discuss the subject. It was only fair that both opinions should be heard, and the suggestion which he made to the right honourable Gentleman was that this matter should be referred to the Boundary Commissioners, who had, after having held a local enquiry, determined whether it should be divided into two or not.

MR. THORNTON (Clapham) opposed the Amendment. Clapham was against any division at all. It would not accept any compromise. It had been stated in the course of the Debate that there had never been any homogeneity between the parishes which compose the Wandsworth district; but his information was diametrically opposite to any such suggestion. With regard to area, there was a very much larger area in this municipality than any other of the proposed areas; but a great deal of that consisted of commons which could never be built upon. Clapham, which had a population of fifty thousand, and a rateable value of £300,000, was absolutely against separation.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My two honourable friends have an unequal fate; because, while one of them who has just sat down thinks he represents the whole constituency, the one who immediately preceded him represented that he had the difficult task of representing the diametrically opposite side of the same problem. I do not think, unless I have reason to believe that local opinion is very much more against it than it appears to be at present, that I should take the responsibility of excluding Wandsworth from the schedule. We have to-night added to the schedule of the Bill several areas closely approaching the area of Wandsworth, and under the circumstances I think we ought to retain that in the schedule.

Mr. Kimber.

MR. KIMBER said he did not concur with what had been said, and suggested that perhaps the First Lord of the Treasury would say a few words on his suggestion that it might be left, keeping the word in the schedule, to the decision of the Commissioners.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My honourable friend will see that there is no reason to put in any particulars if Wandsworth is out of the schedule. That is the only question which the Commissioners would have to deal with; therefore I see no difference between leaving Wandsworth out of the schedule, and the alternative policy of retaining it in the schedule and leaving it to the Commissioners to deal with. If it is shown that there is a preponderating body of feeling in favour of leaving the matter to the Commissioners, that matter shall be considered.

MR. ROBERT WALLACE (Perth) said that had the matter been left in such a way that it could be dealt with by the Commissioners he would have withdrawn his Amendment; but as he did not feel that he was in that position he should have to press it to a Division.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said that Wandsworth was not a district that was entitled to much respect. It did not appear to know its own mind, and if anything happened to it it was that it should be disfranchised for not knowing its mind. He pointed out that it was the largest area in the schedule, and in spite of the 1,200 acres which had to be deducted for commons and open spaces there was still a large amount of land which would be developed and built upon. In a year or two the population would be at least half a million, and that was too large a number for any area under the Bill. He thought Balham and Tooting would make one good municipal area, and that if Wandsworth was divided into two parts municipal administration would be greatly improved.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 118; Noes 58.—(Division List, No. 158.)

AYES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Waltham)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
 Brodick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cox, Irwin Edw. B. (Harrow)
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-

Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of London)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Green, Walford D. (Wedsbury)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Helder, Augustus
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Keswick, William
 Laurie, Lieut-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.)
 Lowe, Marquess of
 Lowles, John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 M'Calmont, H. L. B. (Cambs.)
 Manners, Lord Edw. Wm. J.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hon. Graham (Bute)
 Nicholson, William Graham

Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Penn, John
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Jos. Powell. (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wyndham, George
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrand and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhonda)
 Allen, Wm. (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert Jn.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Griffith, Ellis J.

Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumbria)
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)

Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, Jn. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfield)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Robert Wallace (Perth)
 and Mr. John Burns.

MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.) said the object of the Amendment he rose to move was to divide the proposed new borough of Greater Westminster into two boroughs. He contended that the new area proposed for municipal government

by the Bill—consisting of the parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, the parish of St. George, Hanover Square, the parish of St. James, Westminster, the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and the district of the Strand Board of Works—

included parishes which could not historically be shown to have ever formed part certainly of the ecclesiastical City of Westminster. With one exception the constituent parts concerned had expressed an opinion against the scheme. It was difficult to find any argument in favour of the proposal, whilst the arguments against it were manifold. The parish of St. George, Hanover Square, the Strand Board of Works, and the parishes of St. James and St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, had all expressed their opinion against the proposal, and the only one of the constituent parties which supported this very large scheme was the parish of St. Margaret and St. John, who, until this schedule was framed, were in favour of a very much more modest scheme. There had not been merely an official opposition to the proposal, but the opposition had been declared in resolutions carried almost unanimously at various public meetings. The proposed area was too large to constitute a unit of local government, and he would impress upon the First Lord of the Treasury the fact that he was proposing to group areas which did not wish to be grouped. This fact must have great weight in estimating the probable success of the scheme. The proposal was too large, both from the point of view of area and the point of view of rateable value. The rateable value of the area was said to be £5,000,000 sterling, or twice that of the City of London, and much larger than that of any other municipal area. Similarly with regard to size, some degree of supervision on the part of the governing body was desirable, and no adequate degree of local knowledge could be acquired by the members of that body. These were practical arguments against the proposal, and he submitted to the Committee that they were arguments which had very considerable weight. Moreover, if this Greater Westminster was set up side by side with the City of London it would tend very greatly to disturb, if he might use the expression, the centre of gravity of London. That state of things would lead to a great competition in hospitality, and would involve very considerable incidental extravagance and waste of the resources of London in such directions, which would be more husbanded if dispensed under one authority. He suggested in his amendment that the area should be divided into

two, and he had taken a line which, geographically, cut the area almost into equal portions.

Amendment proposed, in page 15, line 13—

"To leave out from the words 'area of the,' to the end of the Schedule, and insert the words 'parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, and the parish of St. George, Hanover Square. The area of the parish of St. James, Westminster, the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and the district of the Strand Board of Works.'—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) said he had made a great demand upon the time of the House on a former occasion, and he did not intend to repeat that demand now. The honourable member who had just sat down referred to the local feeling and opposition to this proposal in parts of Greater Westminster. Upon that point he should like to say that the Vestry of Westminster passed a resolution in favour of this Bill almost unanimously, and a similar resolution was lost by the narrowest majority in St. George's, Hanover Square. The Bill was opposed in a third area by the Strand Board of Works. As to popular feeling, there had been no expression of it in St. George's, Hanover Square, against this proposal. There had been attempts in the Strand District to excite popular feeling against the proposal in the Bill, but the utmost proportions that those efforts attained were a meeting in St. Martin's Town Hall, at which there were 130 persons present, and that was the sum total of the popular opposition of the Strand District to this Bill. With regard to Westminster, the only popular expression of opinion was at a meeting at which 1,500 persons were present, and they passed a resolution unanimously in favour of this measure. The next objection raised by the honourable Member was that it was too large an area. He could only say that he was very much surprised to hear the honourable Member adduce that argument, because there were at least seven areas to be incorporated in London which had a very much larger area than that of Greater Westminster. With regard to the

Mr. Lawson Walton.

population of Greater Westminster, it would stand fifth on the scheduled areas, and it was only with regard to rateable value that Westminster was very much ahead of the other municipalities, and he did not think that a mere matter of rateable value should be allowed to interfere with a proposal which had so many practical reasons to support it. With regard to the specific proposal of the honourable Member in his Amendment, it proposed to divide Greater Westminster into two portions, and he had appealed to local feeling. The provision which he proposed was opposed in Westminster and in St. George's, Hanover Square, which were two of the principal districts involved. Therefore he did not see how it could be argued that local feeling was in favour of this proposal. What would be the result of the Amendment? It would produce two areas where the rateable value would be in the one case £2,800,000 and in the other £2,000,000. In one case the area would be 1,930 acres, and in the other 615 acres only. In the first case the population would be 133,000 and in the other 59,000. Therefore there did not seem to be any reason, on the ground of attempting to obtain uniformity, for the adoption of the proposal contained in the Amendment. He trusted that the Government would not be shaken from their resolve to reconstitute, for the purposes of this Act—which was to bring a new era of local government into London—an area the boundaries of which were deeply marked in history and familiar to the whole country and to the population of Greater Westminster.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that no adequate reason had been given by the First Lord of the Treasury or by the Solicitor-General for dealing with Westminster in a totally different way to the other boroughs to be created under the Act. There did not appear to be any adequate reason at all except the historical one which, he thought, in these matters, ought not to come in at all. As a parochial borough Westminster never had any history, and he did not quite see why it should be treated in this way, for the only historic part was its Parliamentary part. This borough was going to have only the authority and power of the other municipal boroughs, and if Westminster was content with the same authority and powers as the other

boroughs in proportion to rateable value, then the City of London ought to be content with the same area and the same powers. He thought it was a little discourteous that no reply had been given to the arguments used.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can assure the honourable Gentleman that I do not mean any discourtesy to this Amendment, but I notice that even the mover of it has not remained in his place. It is hardly necessary for me to use again the arguments which I used before. The area we propose at the end is not excessive in point of size, being less than a good many of the areas we have already created. If it be true, as it certainly is, that the rateable value is very much greater, I do not see that that is any objection. There might be a great objection to any scheme which took away from the poor areas already created some rich districts, but there is no probability of that kind before us, and we have no alternative of that description to discuss, because in the view of the honourable Member who has left the House this area should not, in any case, be added to other areas, but it should be merely bisected, and then we should have two areas instead of one. I cannot see that that is a material consideration, and if not, the honourable Gentleman, I am sure, will recognise with me that I am only consistent in doing my best in this case in endeavouring to make these areas in the new London as large as public opinion will permit. I am aware that the honourable Member for South Leeds said that the public opinion of Westminster was against the new arrangement, but I beg leave to doubt that statement, and I think there will be few municipalities more popular than the Greater Westminster which we propose to create.

MR. STUART pointed out that the Government had not taken this step in respect of any other portion of London. They had left a certain area in Whitechapel about which there might be some doubt. Of this particular area of Greater Westminster all except one had shown their strong desire not to be combined together, and yet they were going to combine them. He had not heard of any proposal to make such a combination from the districts concerned, and he did not think the idea ever presented itself to

the minds of those interested in the reform of London Government. This proposal was not in the Bill as it was originally moulded and introduced by the Westminster Conference. It was never heard of until it was expounded by the First Lord of the Treasury. He did not see how they could expect to have a piece of good local government under such

circumstances. The area was very large and complicated, and he thought under these circumstances they were taking a step with respect to this portion of London which they were not proposing to take in any other part of the Metropolis.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 120; Noes, 49.—(Division List, No. 159.)

AYES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Waltham)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Cox, Irwin Edward B. (Harrow)
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)

Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City London)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Greene, Walford D. (Windsor)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Helder, Augustus
Holland, Hn. Lionel R. (Barnes)
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Kewick, William
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant (Yorkshire)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, John Cumming
McAlmont, H. L. B. (Cambridge)
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.I.)
More, Robert Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William George
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian

Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Penn, John
Pierpoint, Robert
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlepool)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancashire)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollenmache, Henry James
Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Joseph Powell (Birmingham)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wyndham, George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Wm. (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-shire)
Colville, John
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Dunn, Sir William
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)

Mr. Stuart.

Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Heldewick, Thomas Charles H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumbria)
Macaleese, Daniel
McArthur, William (Cornwall)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarshire)
Steadman, William Charles

Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert (Perth)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, Frederick W. (Norfolk)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfield)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Lough and Mr. James
Stuart.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 2 :—

CAPTAIN NORTON explained that the Amendment he now proposed to move was intended to prevent the transference to the new boroughs of the powers at present possessed by the London County Council with regard to wooden structures under the Building Act of 1894. The proposal referred not only to ordinary wooden structures, but also to stands such as those that were put up at the time of the Jubilee, and these were buildings that required a considerable knowledge on the part of the official superintending their erection in order that they should be made safe. Under the present law, if an accident occurred the District Surveyor would be held liable by the Coroner's Jury, but if the powers were transferred to the new boroughs the latter would be compelled to engage a number of officers to do this work at great expense, or employ comparatively inexperienced men, with the result that accidents might happen. There was no definition of either a building or a structure, and there would be conflict between the district surveyors and the borough council constantly going on. By the proposal in this Bill they would have dual authority, and would not get uniformity, and in the poorer districts personal influence would no doubt be brought to bear through the borough councils in order to obtain permission to put up buildings.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 16, to leave out lines 6 to 11"—
(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the Schedule."

SIR R. B. FINLAY said this was a matter of no very great importance, as it related to the licences to be granted for the setting up of wooden structures. It had been agreed between the County Council and the local authorities that this transfer should take place.

Amendment agreed to.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar) said his next Amendment dealt with the inspection of dairies throughout London, and

provided that the bye-laws and regulations governing them should be made by the County Council. Under the Public Health Act the London County Council appointed inspectors and they had the power to visit dairies. If this power was taken away from them, as the schedule proposed, it was impossible, unless the County Council had the power of entry, for them to ascertain whether the local authorities were doing their duty or not.

Amendment proposed, in page 16, column 2, line 20 :—

"Before 'subject' insert 'subject to bye-laws and regulations to be made by the County Council, and.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY said that if the honourable Member would look at the seventh section of the Bill, Sub-section 4, he would see that it was provided that it should be the duty of each borough council to enforce within their borough the bye-laws and regulations for the time being in force with respect to dairies and milk. Therefore the Amendment was unnecessary.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said that this was not the point. Under Section 28 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, which referred to the registration of dairies, the County Council had the right of entry. It was that right that he wished to preserve to the London County Council, because without that power they could not ascertain whether the local authorities had done their duty or not.

SIR R. B. FINLAY said he did not see how it could be suggested that they should again provide that the powers given with regard to the registration of dairies should be subject to these bye-laws and regulations, but he would consider before the Report stage whether it was necessary.

Question put, and agreed to.

SIR JOHN DICKSON-POYNTER (Wilt, Chippenham) said his object in moving this Amendment was to delete from the schedule the transfer of the power and duty of executing the Acts relating to common lodging-houses, except

the power of making regulations under Section 9 of the Common Lodging-House Act, 1851, subject to the power of the County Council to act in default of the borough council.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 16, to leave out lines 24 to 27."—
(*Sir John Dickson Poynder.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This is an Amendment I am prepared to accept. The only powers to be transferred are agreed powers, but I find from the conference of the county councils and the vestries that, though they agree in general terms, they are not prepared at the present time to accept this transfer. They require some further modification in the law.

Amendment negatived.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR moved to omit lines 28 to 32, on page 17, on the ground that as the words stood there would be different bye-laws on one side of a street to those in force on the other side.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, to leave out lines 28 to 32."—
(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

SIR R. B. FINLAY expressed the hope

Sir John Dickson Poynder.

that the honourable Member would not press his Amendment. It was desirable that the Borough Councils should have power to make bye-laws with reference to matters specified in that portion of the schedule to which the Amendment referred.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 3, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported: as amended, to be considered upon Monday 5th June, and to be printed. [Bill 217.]

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS AMENDMENT AND CONSOLIDATION.

Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to factories and workshops, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Caldwell, Sir Charles Cameron, Mr. Pirie, Mr. Souttar, and Mr. Colville.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS AMENDMENT AND CONSOLIDATION BILL.

"To amend and consolidate the law relating to factories and workshops," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday 1st June, and to be printed. [Bill 218.]

Adjourned at half after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 19th May 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

(No Standing Orders not previously inquired into applicable.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders not previously inquired into are applicable, viz. :

WISHAW WATER BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

(Standing Orders not previously inquired into complied with.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

DUNDEE GAS, TRAMWAYS, AND EXTENSION BILL [Lords]

changed to—

DUNDEE GAS, STREET IMPROVEMENTS, AND TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS.

(Standing Orders applicable thereto complied with.)

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES PROVISIONAL ORDER (BORROW-STOUNNESS) BILL.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Wednesday, 31st May.

VOL. LXXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

BURLEY-IN-WHARFEDALE URBAN DISTRICT WATER BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

NUNEATON AND CHILVERS COTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL WATER BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

LEITH HARBOUR AND DOCKS BILL
(Queen's consent signified).

Read the third time, and passed.

BELFAST CORPORATION BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY AND TOWN GAS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

GLASTONBURY WATER BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

QUEEN'S FERRY BRIDGE BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time.

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES (NEW LINES) BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 39, 129, and 230 be suspended, and that the time for depositing Petitions and Memorials against Private Bills, or against any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, and for depositing duplicates of any documents relating to any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the recess.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday, 31st May.

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ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday, 31st May.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday, 31st May.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 8) BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday, 31st May.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDERS (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES) (No. 2).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Waterford and Thurles, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland and Mr. Solicitor-General for Ireland.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Isle of Thanet (Rural), Ramsgate, Reading, and Rhyl, ordered to be brought in by Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Chaplin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDERS (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES) (No. 2) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Waterford and Thurles," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 219].

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Isle of Thanet (Rural), Ramsgate, Reading, and Rhyl," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 220.]

PETITIONS.

ADULTERATION (FOOD PRODUCTS) BILL.

Petition from Argyll, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

BOILERS INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION BILL.

Petitions against ;—From Birmingham ;—and, Middlesbrough (two) ; to lie upon the Table.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872.

Petition from West Ham, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Kingston-upon-Hull, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BILL AND EDUCATION (SCHOOL ATTENDANCE) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Arbroath, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN SUGAR.

Petition from Greenock, for imposition of countervailing duties ; to lie upon the Table.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petitions in favour ;—From East Cowes ;—Edmonton ;—Penmaenmawr ;—Enfield ;—Connah's Quay ;—Portsea Island ;—Bolton ;—Tunstead ;—Great Grimsby ;—Wandsworth ;—Soothill Upper ;—Hebden ;—South Lambeth ;—Menai Bridge ;—St. Thomas ;—Ripley ;—Sunderland ;—Cainscross ;—Fleetwood ;—Manchester ;—Vectis Building Society ;—Danden Industrial Co-operative Society, Limited ;—Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, Limited ;—Pwllheli ;—and, Armfield Plain ; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Scottish Poor Law Medical Officers' Association ;—and, Argyll ; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

Petition from St. Mary, Newington, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT (1887) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Birmingham, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour ;—From Wet Earth ;—Pit Clay Cross (No. 4 ;—Kinlet ;—Snibston (No. 2) ;—Rawden ;—Grange

Moor; and, Shirebrook Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Petition from West Ham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Two Petitions from Easington, against; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Birmingham, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

Petitions against establishment;—From Dundee;—and, Jedburgh; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Ilmington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TEINDS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, &c.) BILL.

Petition from Birmingham, against; to lie upon the Table.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, &c.) BILL.

Petition from Irvine, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour;—From Pollokshaws;—and, Cromarty; to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Birmingham, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (GENERAL REPORTS).

Copy presented,—of General Report for the year 1898 by the Chief Inspector of the South Western Division [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2263 to 2264 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INLAND REVENUE (PROSECUTIONS UNDER GAME LAWS).

Return presented,—relative thereto [Ordered 23rd March; *Mr. William Redmond*]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

PUBLIC RECORDS (ADMIRALTY).

Copy of Fifth Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents which have been removed from the Office of the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and deposited in the Public Record Office, but which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein [by Act].

EAST INDIA (FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1899-1900).

Address for "Copy of the Indian Financial Statement for 1899-1900, and of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Governor General thereon." —(*Sir Henry Fowler.*)

MASTERS, MATES, ENGINEERS (SUSPENSION, &c., OF CERTIFICATES).

Return ordered, "showing all Suspensions and Cancellations of Certificates of Masters, Mates, or Engineers, under Clause 242 of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, or Clause 469 of The Merchant Shipping Act of 1894, Ordered by the Board of Trade since the year 1887, showing in each case (1) the nature of the offence of which such person had been convicted, and (2) whether the Certificate was cancelled or suspended, and if suspended, for how long."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith ; considered, and agreed to.

QUESTIONS.

HIGHLAND LADS AND THE NAVY.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he is aware that of the 785 scholars who attended classes in navigation throughout Scotland during the year 1897-8, under the Evening School Code, as many as 691 were scholars of the crofting counties of Argyll, Caithness, Inverness, Orkney and Shetland, and Ross and Cromarty, 247 coming from Ross-shire alone. And, in view of this proof of the desire of Highland youths to render themselves efficient in navigation, will he consider the expediency of giving them better facilities than at present exist for joining Her Majesty's Navy.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (MR. W. E. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.) : The facilities for entry in the Navy in Scotland are the same as elsewhere. Boys can be entered by the station officer at any coastguard station, by the marine recruiting officer at Glasgow, by the officers commanding the coastguard ships at Greenock and Queensferry, and the naval reserve drill ships at Inverness, Aberdeen, Leith and Dundee. Success has not attended the visits of the sea-going training ships to the North, but further visits will be made from time to time, as may be considered desirable.

MR. WEIR : Will the right honourable Gentleman allow a training ship to visit Stornoway during the summer and remain there a few days instead of a few hours ?

MR. MACARTNEY : I can add nothing to my answer.

COMPULSORY RETIREMENT—INDIAN COLONEL'S PAY.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in calculating the value of a Colonel's appointment in India on Indian pay, upon compulsory retirement under

the Royal Warrant of 1881, the War Office has estimated the pay of a Colonel at only 17 rupees 8 annas a month above that of a Lieutenant in the Indian Staff Corps, a Lieutenant in the Indian Service receiving 225 rupees a month, while the War Office estimate of a Colonel's pay is 243 rupees 8 annas a month. Whether he is aware that when the late General Hawley, Deputy Adjutant General at headquarters, was removed from his appointment for age in 1883, five months before his time was up, he received compensation for the full amount of the pay of his appointment notwithstanding that such pay was described in the pay warrant as inclusive of allowances excepting travelling ; and, on what ground the War Office has discriminated in the method of estimating the pay of an officer of the headquarter staff and of an officer of the British service who was serving in India at the time of his compulsory retirement as a General Officer and with a consolidated pay and salary unconditioned of any allowances.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. G. WYNDHAM, Dover) : On the introduction of compulsory retirement for age, it was decided to give compensation in respect of pay, but not of allowances. This principle was applied generally throughout the Army. In the case of India, where consolidated pay is the rule, the India Office supplied a calculation of the amount of pay which represented extinguished allowances, and on that amount no compensation was paid. In the case of the staff at the War Office, the rates of pay had come to be salaries attached to particular posts and were treated as such. In the first paragraph of the question the honourable and gallant Member has compared the nett pay of a colonel excluding the amount based on extinguished allowances with the total consolidated pay of a lieutenant.

UNDER-AGE RECRUITS.

MR. WEIR : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if it is the practice of the War Office authorities to decline to grant a discharge to youths who have enlisted in the Army when under age.

*MR. WYNDHAM : The Queen's Regulations (1805 vi.) lay down that youths proved to be under 17 years of age shall

be discharged, and that youths between 17 and 18 may be discharged or retained at the discretion of the General Officer Commanding the District.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): How does the War Office arrive at a decision that a youth is under 17 or otherwise—by his teeth, in the same way as a horse?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

*MR. WYNDHAM: In the absence of a certificate of birth the medical officer arrives at a decision to the best of his ability.

MR. PIRIE: May I ask—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The last question of the honourable Member was most irregular.

BRITISH TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether any troops have been sent to South Africa since the 1st January 1899; and, if any have been sent, whether he can state their number and description.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Two battalions have been sent out to take the place of two which have left the station; and 776 warrant officers, non commissioned officers and men have been sent out as drafts in ordinary course to relieve time-expired men and to fill up other casualties.

BRITISH CONSULS IN CHARGE OF AMERICAN INTERESTS IN SPAIN.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that considerable extra work is thrown upon Her Majesty's Consuls in Spain, and in several cases heavy expenditure is thrown upon them, owing to the duties incurred by acting in a consular capacity for the United States; and, whether he can state for how long these duties will be performed by Her Majesty's officers, and in what manner they will be remunerated and reimbursed.

*THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Her Majesty's Government are aware that a considerable

amount of extra work is thrown upon Her Majesty's Consuls in Spain since they have had charge of American interests, but no information has been received that these additional duties have involved expenditure. Her Majesty's Government undertook the protection of American interests in Spain at the commencement of the war, and this arrangement will continue so long as it may be convenient to the United States Government. It is usual for belligerents to place their interests in a hostile country in the hands of a friendly power, and in such cases no question of remuneration arises.

PETITION FROM BRITISH SUBJECTS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH (Anglesey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any communication or report from Sir Alfred Milner on the subject-matter of the petition recently despatched for presentation to Her Majesty by British subjects resident in the Transvaal; and, if so, whether he will lay upon the Table such communication or report.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W): To the first part of the question the answer is yes. As to the second part I must refer the honourable Member to my answer to the honourable Member for Derby on the 21st of April.

THE TRANSVAAL ARRESTS.

MR. SCOTT (Lancs, Leigh): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now give any information as to the recent arrests in the Transvaal and as to the nature and importance of the movement in which the persons arrested were believed to be engaged.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I received last night the following telegram from Sir Alfred Milner:

"British agent reports following are names prisoners: Richard Floyd Nicholls, 37, miner, Cornishman; George Patterson, 40, Irish; both are ex-Non-Commissioned Officers British Cavalry; Charles Agar-Ellis, 27, ex-Colour Sergeant British Infantry, Englishman; John Allen Mitchell, 46, ex-Sergeant-Major Royal Horse Artillery, Englishman; Edward James Tremlett, 30, civilian, Englishman; Robert

Poole Hooper, 46, ex-military man, served in India and Matabeleland as Non-Commissioned Officer; Jeane Pries, 40, Dane. Prisoners charged with high treason, brought before Landrost's Court yesterday, remanded formally for fortnight."

I have no other information, except that President Kruger stated to Mr. Greene that there was no proof that the persons arrested had been officers in the British Army, and that in any case the incident would not be allowed to disturb friendly relations. I may add that the President of the South African League has publicly repudiated, on behalf of the league, any connection, direct or indirect, with the enlistment of persons for any purpose whatever in any state or colony.

BRITISH INDIANS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether in the forthcoming conference between Sir A. Milner and President Kruger, the British Representative will discuss questions relating to the grave disabilities imposed upon British Indian subjects by the South African Government for some years past, with the view of remedying the same; and, whether Sir A. Milner has been furnished by the Colonial Office with specific instructions on the subject.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have recently instructed Sir A. Milner on the subject of the British Indians in the Transvaal, and the matter will no doubt be discussed by him and President Kruger.

LAND ORDINANCES OF CEYLON.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will, as promised by him, lay upon the Table of the House the Report of the Governor of Ceylon, now in his possession, as to the working, &c. of the Land Ordinances Act of Ceylon of 1897.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I shall be happy to present papers immediately after Whitsuntide.

FACTORIES AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, early after
Mr. J. Chamberlain.

the Whitsuntide holidays, he will introduce the Factories Amendment Bill he was obliged to withdraw last Session, with a view of passing it into law before the end of the Session.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): The Bill to which I presume my honourable friend refers, dealt with Emergency Processes. As to the prospects of legislation on this subject there is nothing to add to the answer which the Secretary of State gave to the right honourable Member for the University of Oxford yesterday with regard to the fruit-preserving trade—one of the emergency processes.

CATTLE INSPECTION—TUBERCULOSIS.

MR. CHANNING (Northampton, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that there is now no proper inspection of the carcases of imported cattle, of which about 3,000 are weekly slaughtered at Deptford and large numbers elsewhere; and whether, having regard to the large proportion of tuberculosis found to exist in cattle slaughtered and inspected for the detection of pleuro-pneumonia, he will arrange for an adequate staff to examine the carcases immediately after slaughter before removal of the offal.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. H. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I have made inquiry as regards the foreign cattle market at Deptford, which is the only one specifically referred to in the question, and I am informed that, in addition to the inspection of the live animals by two veterinary inspectors appointed by the Board of Agriculture, there is a close inspection of the carcases. This latter inspection is carried out by an inspector specially appointed for the purpose by the Corporation of London. He devotes his whole time to his duty, and acts under the supervision of the veterinary inspector of the Corporation and the superintendent of the market. I understand that cases of tuberculosis in this market are extremely rare, only two having occurred in the last 12 months.

MR. CHANNING: Am I to understand

that inspection is made before the animals are killed?

MR. CHAPLIN: That is the case.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE AGED AND DESERVING POOR.

SIR CHARLES DALRYMPLE (Ipswich): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention, as Chairman of the Select Committee on the Aged and Deserving Poor, has been called to the numerous paragraphs which have appeared in the Press with regard to the proceedings and deliberations of the Committee; and whether the statements so made have been published with the sanction and authority of the Committee.

MR. CHAPLIN: Yes, sir, my attention has been directed to the matters referred to, and I am very glad to reply to the question of my honourable friend, for it was my intention, at the unanimous request of my colleagues on the Committee, to have taken some means of correcting the misapprehensions to which these statements would otherwise give rise. I have to say on their behalf, in reply to the question, that none of the statements referred to are authorised; they have all been made without the knowledge or sanction of the Committee; many of them are inaccurate and misleading, and they are not to be taken as representing the views and decisions of the Committee.

NEWBLISS POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he can state why a letter addressed to the Department on 28th February last, by a resident in Newbliss, has not been replied to up to the present date; and, will any notice be taken of this neglect.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The letter in question was duly acknowledged, but it was not thought necessary to give any further reply, especially as a full reply had already been given on the same subject in March, 1898.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR TELEGRAPHIC BLUNDERS.

MR. MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether his attention had been directed to a case tried at the Barrow County Court on 8th May, in which John Francis Ennis, of Barrow, sued Lawrence E. Tennant, postmaster, of Barrow, for £2 loss by error in transmission of a telegram to A. Brown, the figures 62/6 in the telegraph form handed in at the office having been changed by negligence of the officials of the telegraph department into 26/-, and thus placed in the telegram received by A. Brown; whether the postal authorities admitted the error with an expression of regret, and refunded to Mr. Ennis the amount paid for the abortive telegram, but Mr. Ennis' action against the postmaster of Barrow was defended successfully on the ground that he had sued the wrong official; whether he is aware that Mr. Ennis, on 24th April, received an official letter from the Secretary of the General Post Office, London, stating that the Department was not liable for losses sustained in consequence of the inaccurate transmission of a telegram, and on what foundation is this alleged immunity based; whether, for the guidance of the public, he will say on whom the liability devolves for losses sustained in the transmission of telegrams by the negligence of officials in the postal service; and, whether directions will be given that actions brought against the Department in consequence of such negligence should be defended on the merits and not on technical points.

MR. HANBURY: Both in the Postal Guide and on all telegram forms supplied to the public is printed the condition that the Postmaster-General will not be liable for any loss or damage which may be incurred or sustained by reason or on account of any mistake or default in the transmission or delivery of a telegram. This condition is one of the regulations which have statutory force by virtue of the Telegraph Act, 1868. I have not complete information to show that the postmaster of Barrow defended the action on the ground alleged in the second paragraph. But, of course, the true defence is that which I have now stated.

terest of the men themselves, the right to commute should be given to them.

SOUDAN EXPEDITION, 1898—THE GRANT TO LORD KITCHENER.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I want to announce to the House, in obedience to a pledge I gave on the subject, that I propose to take the Address for a grant for Lord Kitchener on Monday, June 5, which is the first Monday after we return from the holidays.

THE WHITSUNTIDE ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That this House at its rising do adjourn till Wednesday 31st May, and that at the conclusion of Government business this day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put.—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he desired to say a few words with reference to the statement made by the Colonial Secretary yesterday with regard to the presentation of Papers relating to the Transvaal—

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): Perhaps the honourable Gentleman will allow me to intervene at this stage, for it may save him the trouble of going into this matter. The honourable Member asked me yesterday about the presentation of the Papers with regard to the dynamite monopoly. I was not able to give him a definite answer. It was my original intention to present those Papers, included in a great number of other Papers relating to matters in South Africa, after Whitsuntide. I think those Papers will now have to be delayed in consequence of the negotiations which are going on between Sir Alfred Milner and President Kruger, and I have found it convenient, under the circumstances, to present the dynamite Papers separately. I have accordingly laid them upon the Table.

MR. DILLON said that under the circumstances he would say no more on the subject, because it was on those papers that he intended to speak, and the statement of the right honourable Gentleman had practically met all he intended to ask for.

Mr. G. W. Balfour.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS ACT.

*MR. CHANNING (Northampton, E.) said the opportunities of bringing questions before the House were so few that he wished to take this opportunity of calling attention to a measure which was mentioned in the Queen's Speech. He alluded to the Agricultural Holdings Act. He wished to question the Government upon this measure, and also to express a feeling which he believed was held very largely amongst the farmers of this country, that the perpetual postponement of this question after its repeated appearance in the Queen's Speech, and after the repeated pledges of the First Lord of the Treasury and the President of the Board of Agriculture was most unsatisfactory. They had a right to enter a very definite protest against the course which had been adopted with regard to this Bill. A very definite pledge was given in the First Lord of the Treasury's address to the electors of Manchester, and although it was a question on which there was probably more unanimity than on any other question amongst all sections of the House, they had seen this measure postponed year by year and Session by Session, and they had absolutely no guarantee whatsoever that this question would be dealt with in the present Session, and they did not know what lines the Government would proceed upon when they attempted to deal with it. Not only the First Lord of the Treasury, but also the President of the Board of Agriculture had also made himself specially responsible for this Bill to the country. The subject had been inquired into and reported upon by two Royal Commissions, and the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture and other bodies who had a special right to be heard in this House had given their views. There was no question which had been so thoroughly threshed out, and the subject had been ripe for legislation for some years. Not only had there been these Royal Commissions, but there had repeatedly been decisions in this House in favour of the measure. A Bill of this description passed its Second Reading in 1895—

*MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is now going into the general question of the necessity for legislation upon this subject, and he will not be in order in doing that upon this occasion.

*MR. CHANNING said he was en-

endeavouring to show that not only had Her Majesty's Government promised for four years in succession to bring in legislation of this kind, but they had the whole of the material for legislation before them, and there was no excuse whatever for refusing any longer to deal with it. He thought nobody in that house would challenge his statement that this question was absolutely ripe for solution, and that Her Majesty's Government had again and again pledged themselves to deal with it. He thought they had a perfect right to protest against the course which had been persisted in year by year. The measure might be proceeded with easily during the present session, because there was a unanimity of feeling in all parts of the House. Not only in this House, but the decisions outside were practically unanimous, and the differences that existed were more in detail than in principle. They had a right to know what Her Majesty's Government's proposals were. Upon this question the assertions and statements of the President of the Board of Agriculture, made in different parts of the country, were not consistent, for in one part of the country he held forth hopes to the agriculturists which were not verified and supported by statements which he had made in other parts of the country. When speaking in Scotland the right honourable Gentleman supported one theory, and when at Westminster he supported a wholly different one. Therefore they had a right to demand that the Government should introduce this Bill, and allow the House an opportunity either of dealing with it in the present session or at any rate of bringing opinion to bear upon it in such a form that Her Majesty's Government would see on what lines they would have to settle this question in order to produce any satisfaction among the agricultural community. This was a question of political necessity and sound economical policy, both in the interests of the landlords as well as that of the tenant farmers. There was one other matter to which he should like to refer. The House was well aware that a question of urgent interest to the agricultural community was now before Parliament in the Food and Drugs Bill, and he wished to express the hope that Her Majesty's Government would approach this question—

*MR. SPEAKER: The honourable

Member is not in order in referring to a Bill which is not before the House.

*MR. CHANNING said the only course pursued by the Government had been that of protecting the interests of the land-owning classes, and there was a grave suspicion that if this Bill was further postponed, the protection of the right of the tenant farmer to the improvements which he made in his farm would be endangered. To Her Majesty's Government, who were pledged to protect the tenant farmer, those rights seemed to be of less importance than the interests of the land-owning class. He desired to know definitely whether the Government had come to the conclusion not to proceed with this Bill during the present session. He asked them frankly and fairly to place their proposals before the House in order that they might be discussed in agricultural circles during the recess.

SCOTTISH EDUCATION AND FINANCE.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) thought that before the House adjourned they ought to have some information from the Government as to what they were going to do in reference to Scottish finance, especially in reference to that for education. He did not know whether they intended to bring in a Bill to reorganise the Education Department, or whether they intended session after session to carry on this organisation without any Act of Parliament or without any law at all except by Minute as they were doing now. The Minute of the present year entirely changed the whole plan. He did not intend to say much regarding that, and he would confine himself to the financial position which they were placed in by the Act of Parliament which was passed two years ago. That measure was passed upon certain statements made on behalf of the Government by the Lord Advocate, but the facts showed that the right honourable Gentleman entirely misrepresented and misunderstood the state of things he was creating by this Act. He grossly over-estimated the amount to come to Scotland, and under-estimated the amount that would go to England, and the result was that Scotland lost about £75,000 a year during the last two years that otherwise she would have got, if the principle of the equivalent grants had been carried out. As a result of the

change they found that England was getting very much more than her share. In addition to this the Scotch Department had become a Secondary Education Department. They expected to get their fair share of the equivalent grant but they did not get it—

*MR. SPEAKER: It appears to me that the honourable Gentleman is discussing and reviewing past legislation or the necessity for new legislation, and that is not in order.

DR. CLARK said his point was that the Government got this legislation passed upon facts which were entirely wrong. Their prophecies had proved to be fallacious and the estimates were entirely wrong, and the result had been that they had been deprived of £75,000 a year.

*MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is now going into the question of the effect of past legislation. It is not in order to go back into the history of how a Bill became law upon a motion for adjournment.

DR. CLARK contended that this was not done by legislation, for if that had been so they could have expressed their views upon it. It had been done simply by an arrangement with the Treasury on the one side and the Scotch Office on the other.

*MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member would be in order if he was simply complaining of something which he alleges is illegal.

DR. CLARK said it appeared that one department could make an arrangement with another department and prepare estimates, and then say to the Scotch Members, "If these things are true you will get a fair equivalent grant," but that had not been the result.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. G. MURRAY, Buteshire), on a point of order, said he understood that the honourable Member's complaint was, that under the two Bills passed in 1897, as the facts showed, Scotland had not got as much money as she ought to have had. That might or might not be true, but those Bills were passed, and Scotland could only get that amount of money, and nothing which

the Government could do could affect that amount without further legislation on the subject.

DR. CLARK said an arrangement was made between the Treasury and the Scotch Office, under which the Treasury was to pay to the Scotch Office a large sum for two years, which had not been paid. The Treasury were paying £5,000 this year, and Scotland was losing large sums because of the arrangement made between the Treasury and the Scotch Office, not by Act of Parliament but simply by an arrangement which any Chancellor of the Exchequer might repudiate. That was the point he wished to press upon the House, that it was not done by legislation, but had been done in an underhand, behind-the-chair fashion by which the Lord Advocate came and told them that they would secure a great deal of money from the Treasury, and Scotland was not to ask for a fair equivalent of what England was getting.

*MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member would be in order if he is complaining that the powers exercised by the Government under these Acts of Parliament have been exercised improperly. If he is referring to the circumstances under which some provisions have been embodied in a Bill two years ago he is out of order.

DR. CLARK explained that a Bill was brought in for England, but the Lord Advocate, on behalf of the Scotch Education Department, said that instead of having that Bill for Scotland as well as for England, the Government had made an arrangement with the Treasury under which the voluntary school children and the board school children would get a sum which would practically raise the grant to twelve shillings. They made a change from eleven-eightieths to ten shillings per head, and an arrangement was made by which the Treasury would keep up this grant to twelve shillings per head. Now they had had two years' experience, and instead of that sum being placed in the Estimates and paid over by the Treasury, not a single penny was paid or asked for. This year they had placed on the Estimates £5,000, so that instead of getting £50,000, which the Scotch Education Department agreed with the Treasury would be required, only £5,000 had been put

Dr. Clark.

down, and what they were protesting against was that these great changes were being made and free education was being changed to secondary by the Department without any legislation whatever. The legality of this course was very doubtful, for they were doing it by Minute and by arrangement instead of by bringing a Bill before the House. This was very discreditable, for it was being done by a Department which the Scotch members had no confidence in. Scotland was simply being defrauded of this money, and all the Scotch Members could do was, at question time, to bring all these facts before the Treasury and the Scotch Office.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Before the honourable Member opposite raises the Colonial debate, I should like to reply to what has already been said. As regards what has fallen from the honourable Member for Caithness, I understand that he is trying to drag this question into the vortex of the equivalent grant controversy, upon which I hope the House will not embark this afternoon. The pledge given by my right honourable friend near me was that the Exchequer would always make up the 12s. per child necessary to carry out free education in Scotland, as that question has already been conceived by them. Now that sum has been paid, although the sum originally proposed has not been required.

DR. CLARK said the original estimate was £660,000, and they had received only £611,000 or £618,000.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the honourable Member can show that the 12s. per child has not been paid by the Treasury, he will have a real grievance, but until he can show that he has not.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS ACT.

As regards the observations of the honourable Member for East Northamptonshire, he has passed a severe criticism upon the Government for not having brought in, in the course of the present session, the Agricultural Holdings Act. I could not quite gather from his speech whether the honourable Member objected on the ground that the Bill was not brought in and passed, or whether he objected because

he only wanted the Bill to be brought in in order that he might have an opportunity of discussing it all the winter in the various Chambers of Agriculture and in his own constituency. Whichever was the honourable Member's complaint, it appears to me to be somewhat unreasonable. It was perfectly true that at the last General Election not only I, but I think most Members of Parliament, declared their intention of doing all that was possible to aid the agricultural interest. Will anybody, looking back for the last few years, say that these pledges have not been fulfilled? The honourable Gentleman objected to the Agricultural Rating Act. I will not now go into the merits of that Act, but I am confident that if the honourable Member will put before the farmers in his constituency the Agricultural Rating Act on the one side, and the possible measure for tenants' improvements in regard to agricultural holdings on the other, I think they would elect for the measure which the honourable Gentleman opposite opposed. I think a somewhat similar observation might be made in regard to another piece of legislation which the Government are bringing forward this session in relief of agriculture—I mean the Bill in charge of my right honourable friend the President of the Board of Agriculture, the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill. Again, I say that if the farmers of this country were given the choice whether they would have the Food and Drugs Bill or the Bill which the honourable Gentleman this afternoon advocates, I believe they would prefer the Food and Drugs Bill. We have passed one great measure and are in process of passing another great measure for the direct benefit of the agricultural interest among others. I confess, looking forward as far as I can into the present session, that I do not see much prospect of the Agricultural Holdings Act being dealt with, but I trust that we have several sessions before us, and therefore the honourable Gentleman need not despair of seeing his pet scheme carried to a successful issue.

SCOTTISH EDUCATION AND FINANCE.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar) said he wished to press for a little more information on the question of Scotch Education. The right honourable Gentleman in charge of Scotch business in the House was well

aware that there was a considerable interest taken in the question, and they had endeavoured from time to time to elicit from him some information on the point brought forward by the honourable Member for Caithness, and they had not been able to get that information. It had already been brought to the attention of the House what occurred in June 1897, as to the money which was allotted to Scotland, and the complaint was that there had been a departure from the system of equivalent grants for Scotland. In June 1897, the Lord Advocate, in a series of calculations, said that the money which Scotland would receive under the grant which was then arranged between the Treasury and the Scottish Education Department would be £66,000, made up in different ways, but in the last resort by a special grant of 12s. per head which he estimated would come to £26,000. The complaint he made now was that, having accepted that estimate of £26,000 as due to Scotland for this purpose, they had not got that money.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the honourable Member will be out of order in pursuing that line of argument. I understand his argument to be that in 1897 statements were made which induced the House to pass certain measures, and he is now complaining that those statements turned out to be incorrect. That is a point which cannot now be discussed. Rightly or wrongly, the House acted upon those statements and the Bill became law, and the honourable Gentleman cannot discuss on a motion for adjournment whether those statements were correct or not, though it is open to him to contend that the Government have acted improperly or illegally.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said the exact complaint of the Scotch Members was that whereas the estimate which the Government made was set down at £26,000, that estimate had not been fulfilled, and they had received in Scotland both this year and last year a sum which was very largely short of what was promised.

*MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member hardly follows what I said. I repeat that it is out of order to go back on the arguments which induced the House to pass certain measures.

Captain Sinclair.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR pointed out that what he wished to put before the House was the fact that a particular bargain had not been fulfilled, and he contested the conduct of the Government in dealing with Scotch education in this particular respect. They had given no explanation, and he again asked the Lord Advocate if he could tell the House how it was that Scotland had not received the amount of the estimate which had been accepted.

REDISTRIBUTION.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.) said he should like to devote about five minutes to the question of redistribution, and to what a leading journal called the scandal of over representation in various parts of England.

*MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member must see that to discuss a Redistribution Bill on a motion for adjournment would be to discuss a matter for legislation, and that would be entirely out of order.

CEYLON ORDINANCES.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.) said he was exceedingly obliged to the Secretary for the Colonies for having promised them a report on the Ceylon ordinances. He now desired to say a few words impugning the action of the right honourable Gentleman and also the action of Sir West Ridgeway. He thought he ought to apologise to Sir West Ridgeway for a speech he made upon a former occasion, because he had discovered that the right honourable Gentleman himself was responsible for the land ordinance in Ceylon. Lord Selborne, in a speech which he delivered in another place a short time ago said—

“The amending ordinance which has been violently attacked was not prepared on the initiation of the Governor of Ceylon, but on the direct instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.”

Continuing, Lord Selborne said—

“If, therefore, that ordinance is ill-timed or an ill-conceived measure, the first responsibility rests not with the Government of Ceylon, but with Her Majesty's Government.”

He was prepared to prove, in the words of Lord Selborne, that this ordinance was both ill-timed and ill-conceived, and he was not going to base that simply upon his own statement nor upon that of Mr. Le Mesurier. He would

bring into the witness-box a number of gentlemen who were members of the Legislative Council of Ceylon. The Hon. Mr. Mitchell, a mercantile member, who is an Englishman, calls this ordinance, "A most unprincipled Bill, devoid of all the principles of common honesty." The Hon. Mr. Goomard Swann, another member, spoke of it as "A vile ordinance which would ruin the people." The Hon. Mr. Christie, another Englishman, expressed himself as follows:—

"The ordinance as a whole was too heroic, although His Excellency had foreshadowed a policy that would not be heroic. It went too far; instead of untying the knot, it simply cut it. It simply declared that with one small exception all the land in the country was Crown land, and they had got to prove it was not."

The Hon. Sir John Grinlinton, the general European member, did not think the Government ever contemplated the execution of such an arbitrary law. He thought that showed that the statement made by the right honourable Gentleman in this House, and by Lord Salisbury in another place, that this ordinance had met with general approval was without foundation. With regard to the newspapers of Ceylon—some of them which had always taken a Conservative line in all matters concerning the Colony—what did they say? They described the passing of this ordinance as blackmail, and as inflicting gross and bitter hardship upon the natives. Since the various articles condemning the ordinance had appeared in the various Ceylon papers he had received from the Association of Planters of Chillaw resolutions in exactly the same terms, and he felt compelled to read their statement because it came from a body of men who were impartial, and he thought the House would agree with him that they were people entitled to be heard in this House. At a meeting of that body the following is what took place. The Chairman moved a resolution to the following effect:—

"That the statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the House of Commons, on the 20th March last, to the effect that 'the principle of land ordinances of Ceylon is regarded with satisfaction by the vast majority of the natives,' has no foundation, and this association is of opinion that the statement was made by Mr. Chamberlain in ignorance of facts and under misinformation, the truth being that the said ordinances are, both in principle and in their practical working, oppressive and extortionate as regards the natives, amongst whom they have been the

cause of the greatest dissatisfaction with the Government from the earliest times."

This motion was seconded by Mr. Munasinha and carried unanimously. In another article the *Ceylon Standard*, a very Imperialistic paper, in a leading article on the 7th of April, said:

"That at this time of day any man outside the Government service could be found or pressed into the service to defend the policy of this most iniquitous piece of legislation passes ordinary human comprehension. We admire the audacity of the man who gravely and solemnly proclaims that the Waste Lands Ordinance is harmless and necessary. Such a man cannot but stand condemned as being ignorant of the most elementary principles of justice and fair play."

The same journal goes on to say:

"The private individual in lawful possession of his land may be turned out, or certainly he may be prevented from reaping the fruits of his labour. The land he possesses may furnish him his sole income. It may be the entire support of his family. Yet it may be taken away from him at a moment's notice. He dare not step on to it, and thus reduced to a state of destitution and starvation he may be told to bring his action against the Crown and prove that the land is his. This is no fanciful picture. This has repeatedly happened in our Courts. It is doubly cruel to treat the villager thus, because the Government officials know that 90 per cent. of our village lands are claimed by virtue of prescriptive possession. To deprive a man of his only source of income, to take possession of the fruits of his labour, and then to compel him to bring an action to establish his title is a monstrosity utterly unworthy of any Government. We may tell the apologists for Government that the Government, evidently ashamed of this piece of special legislation, has determined to resort to the regular tribunals of the land and adopt the ordinary procedure.

He was glad to say that they had been forced to do that by the action of the Colonial judges. He called attention to these matters because there was a new ordinance going to be introduced which was likely to affect most seriously the interests of the villagers of Ceylon, because at the end of it there was a clause which glossed over and whitewashed any irregularities which might have been committed by the Government. There was another mis-statement made in another place by Lord Selborne, which he felt bound to correct, or otherwise it might be accepted as the truth.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, Order! The honourable Member is quite in order in calling attention to these matters, but he is obviously replying in detail to a speech

made in the House of Lords, and he is not in order in doing that.

MR. SCHWANN said he desired to draw the attention of the House very strongly to this fact, because he thought they would be disposed to take up the protection of the village population of Ceylon. It was not a very entrancing subject, but this House was responsible for the rightful enjoyment of property by these races, and it would be wrong to allow this opportunity to pass without drawing the attention of the right honourable Gentleman to the past working of the ordinance, and the opinion which had been formed in Ceylon of the extreme gravity of the situation. The right honourable Gentleman seemed to under-rate entirely the gravity of the action which he had caused to be carried out on his own initiative in that island. The presiding magistrate heard the defence, and then the case was carried to another court, where the native had to come up and prove his right to the land he occupied. It was an exceedingly difficult thing for a poor peasant in that country, without a knowledge of the law, to be forced to prove in a court of law his right to lands which had been from time immemorial in the hands of his predecessors. He wished to impress most strongly upon the right honourable Gentleman the view which was held now by all classes of the population, and of the labouring classes who had been despoiled of their land, and which had been expressed by the papers which represented the public opinion of the moment, and which had been expressed by the judges in unmistakable terms, that there was a great want of satisfaction with the working of this ordinance. As there was another Act which was likely to be still more strongly used against the people of Ceylon, he hoped the right honourable Gentleman would take into full consideration the seriousness of the case, and take all means in his power to diminish the oppression with which these Acts were being carried out in that island.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The honourable Gentleman opposite says he hopes upon another occasion that he will be able to go more into detail on this question. I cannot understand why, under those circumstances, he should have taken advantage of this occasion to repeat the

statement which he made on a previous occasion and which evidently he is going to repeat again. I am always perfectly ready to meet any attack, but I think it is a disadvantage when a subject of this kind, which involves a reference to a great number of documents, is brought up without any longer notice than is given in a letter delivered to me some time after I came into the House, and in which my honourable friend says he is prepared to attack a statement made in another place, and which, of course, the honourable Member knows as well as I do, cannot be properly discussed here under the Orders of the House. The honourable Member states that his object was

"To call attention to the past working of certain ordinances in Ceylon to the extreme gravity of the situation, and to the opinion of all classes of the people of Ceylon."

But, as a matter of fact, the honourable Member said nothing to inform the House as to the nature and character of these ordinances or of their working, and the only information he gave as to the opinions of the population was to quote the views of certain individuals who are members of the legislative body, and the opinion of certain newspapers. In Ceylon, as elsewhere, there is an Opposition as well as a Government, and that opposition generally finds fault with the legislation of the country. Now if you take as the general opinion of the people the opinions expressed in the organs of the Opposition in reference to the legislation of the Government, you will be sure to come to a very inaccurate conclusion indeed. I repeat here what I have said upon a previous occasion, that, according to the very best information which I am able to obtain—a good deal of which will no doubt appear in the Papers which I have promised, for which the honourable Gentleman is too impatient to wait—it will appear from those papers that, at all events, these ordinances are not generally unpopular, but on the contrary I believe that they are generally approved of. If the House will consider for a moment what this legislation is, honourable Members will see good reason for believing that I am correct in that view. This legislation is intended to protect the community against the individual, and it is a most extraordinary thing that the honourable Member opposite, who calls himself an advanced Radical, should on this occasion get up and take up the case of the

individual as against the community. In all the land legislation we undertake in this House, we find that honourable Members opposite always claim that the rights of individuals should not be allowed to prejudice the claims and rights of the community. But in this particular case, where the natives are concerned in a distant dependency, the honourable Gentleman takes up the case of Mr. Le Mesurier, a land speculator, and other persons of the same kidney, as against the interests of the whole of the people. When the charge takes a more definite form I shall be prepared to answer it, but at present I can add nothing to the statement which I made upon a previous occasion.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH (Anglesey) said the right honourable Gentleman had not followed the advice which he had given to the honourable Member for North Manchester, for he had himself carefully avoided all reference to the nature and character of the land ordinances. He was sure that, on whichever side of the House they sat, honourable Members would admit that they best looked after the interests of the community by looking after the interests of the individual. If he remembered aright, the doctrine of "ransom" which was once advocated by the right honourable Gentleman was to take away from the rich and give to the poor. These ordinances, however, took away from the poor to give to the Government; so that a very great change had taken place within the last few years with regard to the doctrine of "ransom." But however that might be, it was unnecessary now to enter into personalities. They had a perfect right to refer to Members of that House as politicians, but what was the good of referring to Mr. Le Mesurier as a land speculator and "persons of that kidney," for even Mr. Le Mesurier was entitled to justice. Upon another occasion the right honourable Gentleman alluded to Mr. Le Mesurier not only as a land-grabber but also as a wife-grabber.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, no! The honourable Gentleman misrepresents me. What I said on a previous occasion I have repeated to-day, that this Mr. Le Mesurier is a land speculator who bought large quantities of land or doubtful claims from the natives at a very low rate, and he is prosecuting them against

the Government, which in this case represents the community. I also said that Mr. Le Mesurier, having failed to obtain a divorce from his wife, had declared himself a Mahomedan and married a second wife.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH pointed out that Mr. Le Mesurier had offered to give to the Government all the land at the price he gave for it if the Government would restore it to the people to whom it originally belonged. As to this divorce, Mr. Le Mesurier obtained it in the Lower Courts of Ceylon on absolutely irresistible evidence, but when he went to the Higher Court a technical objection was taken that a marriage contracted in England could not be dissolved in Ceylon. That technical objection was fatal, and after that Mr. Le Mesurier became a Mahomedan. The right honourable Gentleman himself should be the last person in this House to complain of a person changing his religion or anything else. He could quite understand that a man could conscientiously become a Mahomedan. Many citizens of the Queen were Mahomedans, and why should they make so much of a man becoming a Mahomedan? They sent out missionaries to India to make Christians of Mahomedans, and he failed to see anything wrong in a Christian becoming a Mahomedan. With respect to this ordinance, what he complained of was that it referred to all uncultivated land, and to all land that had not been in constant cultivation for five years continuously. Anyone who knew anything about Ceylon knew that the cultivation of land there was intermittent. Was it not a scandalous thing that, according to the doctrine of "ransom," the Government were going to confiscate all this land which had not been cultivated for five years in succession? There was only one remedy for this state of things in Ceylon, and that was to have some sort of an independent inquiry. They had heard a great deal about Sir West Ridgeway, but his career as an administrator had not been very fortunate. The right honourable Gentleman had alluded to the newspapers in Ceylon, but it was not a fair analogy to compare them with the newspapers in this country. There was only one paper in Ceylon which supported this ordinance, and that was a paper owned by the Government solicitor. The right honourable Gentleman got all his information

from the officials, and what they asked was that instead of doing this he should get his information from some impartial or independent persons. If the right honourable Gentleman would take the trouble to inquire carefully into this matter he would find that these ordinances were unfair, unjust, and an oppression upon the native population of Ceylon.

MR. PIRIE said he had spent three years on the staff in India, and he could refute any charge against Mr. Le Mesurier as far as oppression upon the natives was concerned, for he did not think there was any man against whom that charge could be urged with less reason.

SCOTTISH AFFAIRS—LIQUOR REFORM— ARMY STATISTICS.

What he desired, however, to bring before the House was the persistent disregard, as far as Scotch wishes and opinion were concerned, of the various subjects which came before the House this Session. There had been an utter disregard of temperance reform, and he asked the First Lord of the Treasury not many days ago what the intentions of the Government were in view of the facts given in favour of a Local Veto Bill in Scotland. The Government did not seem to be aware of the fact that there had been a very strong demand from Scotland for over a quarter of a century in favour of temperance reform. He thought great fault was to be found with the Government in regard to their deliberate policy of concealment from this House as regarded the furnishing of statistics showing the strength of the various battalions of soldiers. He hoped that an opportunity would be found upon the discussion of the salary of the Secretary of State for War of bringing up this matter more fully. He emphasised the fact that as long as the same physical qualifications at present in force obtained, accuracy as regarded the age of soldiers and other statistics was impossible. They would obtain more accuracy as to age by looking at the teeth than by the present system, and the practice which obtained in this country of enlisting boys was absolutely inhuman, and the sooner it was changed the better.

SCOTTISH AFFAIRS.

*MR. WEIR said he had one or two
Mr. Ellis J. Griffith.

matters to which he desired to call the attention of the House. First there was the question of dog licences and the rules, adopted in Scotland by Inland Revenue Officers. What he wished to impress upon those in charge of this question was that each officer should not be a law unto himself. The burden of these dog taxes was a very serious matter indeed to the poor cottars and crofters, to whom 7s. 6d. a year was a very serious item. Honourable Members in this House might think it a small matter, but it was no small matter to the poor crofters in the Highlands. A few days ago he got a Return from the Scottish Office showing that out of 800 boys attending the navigation classes in Scotland during a certain period, nearly 700 came from the Highland crofting counties. He did think that some efforts should be made to give Highland boys an opportunity of joining the Navy, and he trusted that the Admiralty would make some efforts to send up a training ship not for a few hours, but for a few weeks, in order to afford those boys who are so accustomed to sea life, and who would make splendid sailors, an opportunity of joining the Navy. With reference to the fishery cruisers, he found from a Return issued the other day that Her Majesty's ship "Jackal" had only been at sea 47 days out of 119. Surely there must be something radically wrong, these boats are wanted to look after the trawlers, and instead of doing this work the Admiralty cruiser lies idle in Stornoway Harbour. He thought the Fishery Board should have power to see that these police boats do their duty, and should not be allowed to skulk away half their time. They would hear less of this illicit trawling if more attention was paid to these police boats. Now he came to a question for the Lord Advocate pure and simple. What he wished to urge upon the Scottish Office was this: they offered to provide half an acre of waste land for the fishermen in some part of the Island of Lewis. He thought that with a couple of acres of that waste land the fishermen would be able to maintain themselves during the period of the year when they could not sell their fish. He did hope that the Scottish Office would pay some attention to this matter. He called the attention of the Lord Advocate to the way in which sand was silting up in some of the harbours in the Highlands of Scotland, and pointed

out that although the matter had been brought to the notice of the Scottish Office nothing had been done.

MR. COLVILLE (Lanark, N.E.) rose to call attention to the neglect of the Scotch Office in the matter of providing adequate accommodation for the pupil teachers of Scotland. He desired to say there was a strong feeling in Scotland that the people did not obtain the proportion of money for education to which they were entitled. The promises of the Scotch Office had not been fulfilled with regard to technical education. He hoped something would now be done in the matter.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

*MR. J. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) called attention to the attitude assumed by the Colonial Secretary in intermeddling with the internal affairs of the Transvaal. He said it was impossible to peruse the Conventions of 1881 and 1884 without coming to the conclusion that we had no right whatever to interfere in the internal affairs of the Transvaal. On the contrary, the Transvaal was absolutely independent in every respect except one, which was that if they concluded a treaty with any foreign Government it was to be submitted to the Queen, and should not be valid if Her Majesty disapproved of it within six months. Under the Convention of 1884 the Republic was, so far, as independent of us as any other Power in the world. It was impossible for any person to say that we had any right over the Transvaal State except such a right as we had with any other State—the right of friendly remonstrance. The questions affecting the Transvaal in which this country was asked to interfere were purely domestic questions, which had troubled the earlier years of every other civilised State. There was not one of the grievances of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal which had not or had in the past its counterpart in England, especially with regard to the franchise, which was only given to the middle classes in 1832, while the working classes only obtained it in 1865 and 1885. Would anybody suggest that that gave a right to a foreign Power to interfere in our affairs? It was weak and imbecile on the part of the Uitlanders to make whining applications to another country

to help them to obtain the franchise. There was the gravest reason for withholding the franchise to some extent from the Uitlander population. It was a mining population who had gone to the Transvaal not for the purpose of settling there, but for the purpose of speculating, making money, and then returning to England. Such persons were not entitled, and ought not to be, to the franchise, which was only intended to be given to those who were resolved to make the country their permanent home. That is why a long term of residence was required before it was granted. He ventured to say that not one per cent., or one in a thousand of the emigrant population ever returned or intended to return to this country when they went to America, except for short visits; but that was not the case in the Transvaal. The Uitlanders were admitted to the franchise for the Second Volksraad within two years, and if they had no voice in the election of the First Volksraad or of the President, Englishmen had no voice in the constitution of the House of Lords or in the appointment of the Head of the State. It was said that the mining industry was taxed beyond endurance. All information coming from South Africa was to be looked on with the gravest suspicion, because the metropolitan papers, with one or two exceptions, were under the control of the Rhodesian capitalists, and misrepresentations of the grossest character were circulated. The taxation on the mining industry was less in the Transvaal than in any other important mining country in the world. An unbiassed investigation of the facts must lead any honest man to the conclusion that we had been trying to pick a quarrel with the Transvaal. As to the petition which had been presented to the Queen, everyone knew how signatures to petitions were obtained. In this country they cost 1s. a hundred; in the Transvaal they cost 4s. The attempt that had been made by certain Rhodesian speculators, who seemed to have a magnetic influence over the Colonial Secretary, would fail; and the country was under a debt of obligation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for standing against the influence of these speculators.

SCOTTISH AFFAIRS.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) thought he was entitled to ask the

Government what legislation the Government proposed to bring forward for Scotland. Hitherto the session had been barren of any attempt to fulfil the real wishes of the Scotch people, and when measures which really concerned the social welfare of Scotland were brought forward the Scotch Members were outvoted by English. He also complained of the arrangement by which the Secretary for Scotland had no place in this House, and had therefore no opportunity of keeping himself in touch with Scottish Members. He reminded the House of the fact that Scotch law was essentially different from the English law. An Act of Parliament was never passed unless there were certain things to be reserved in its application to Scotland. In dealing, therefore, with a country whose laws were different from those in England, he ventured to say that they ought to have those laws in accordance with the sentiments of the Scotch people. No one, of course, could doubt the loyalty of the people of Scotland. As, therefore, with the exception of one little Bill, there was no legislation for Scotland before Parliament, he thought they were entitled to resist the Adjournment. Another point which he complained of with regard to Scotch matters was that they had not the Secretary for Scotland in the representative Chamber. That was a most serious matter having regard to the arrangements in connection with the other Departments. In the case of the Finance Act, for instance, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had full power to make concessions, as was shown in the proceedings the other day. Then, again, in the case of the London Government Bill, the right honourable Gentleman in charge of the measure was able to make concessions from time to time, tending, he had no doubt, to the great improvement of the Bill. On the other hand, what did they do when they had not the representative of a Department in the House? Take, for instance, the notorious case of the Vice-President of the Council. What was the use of him in that House when his head was in the other House? He was more than useless in the Commons. Again, take the Scotch business. What was the advantage of having the Secretary for Scotland in the other House? He had no desire to be disrespectful to the Lord Advocate, but what was the reason why they had a Secretary for Scotland at all? It was

Mr. Caldwell.

that they might have a man who was in touch with the constituencies and Scotch members on both sides of the House. Well, what took place at the present moment? If there was any Scotch business the Lord Advocate simply came down to the House holding a brief for the Department, and receiving his instructions beforehand. He listened to the debate, but he could not depart one iota from his instructions. Was that fair to the House when in the case of the other Departments most important changes were made owing to the discussion that took place? He was bound to say that that was not a satisfactory way of doing the business of the House. The Lord Advocate came to the House as a counsel—not as a statesman. He did not exercise his own independent judgment. If he were really the Secretary for Scotland, he (Mr. Caldwell) would not object, but he did object because he came with his hands and tongue practically tied, and did nothing but what the permanent officials in the Department had given him instructions to do. With respect to the grant made in 1877, he claimed that they were entitled to ask the Government to reconsider the matter.

*MR. SPEAKER reminded the honourable Member that he was traversing the ruling he had laid down.

MR. CALDWELL bowed to the Speaker's ruling. Proceeding, he said, there was one other matter which had been referred to by his honourable friend the Member for North-East Lanark (Mr. Colville), and that was the want of proper training colleges for the teachers in Scotland. There was a great demand for trained teachers, but those who had served as pupil teachers, undergone all their examinations, and become qualified to be trained as teachers could not get admission to the training colleges simply because there was not room. He understood perfectly well the reason why the Government did not increase the number of training colleges. The Government could not call upon the denominations to increase the training colleges because they were private property; these colleges were practically maintained at the expense of the State, and they were bound to keep up the present system. This was the reason why they did not adopt the plan of having State training colleges.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved—

“That this House at its rising do adjourn till Monday, 31st May, and that at the conclusion of Government business this day, Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put.”

MERCHANT SHIPPING (LIMITATION OF LIABILITY OF SHIPOWNERS).

Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, with respect to the limitation of the liability of Shipowners, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Charles M^rArthur, Sir Francis Evans, Mr. Warr, Sir Charles Cayzer, Colonel Denny, Sir John Leng, and Mr. W. F. Lawrence.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Bill for the provision of Secondary Education, and for other purposes connected with Education, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Evelyn Cecil, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Cripps, Viscount Cranborne, and Mr. Griffith-Boscawen.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (LIMITATION OF LIABILITY OF SHIPOWNERS) BILL.

“To amend The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, with respect to the limitation of the liability of Shipowners,” presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 12th June, and to be printed. [Bill 221.]

SECONDARY EDUCATION BILL.

“For the provision of Secondary Education, and for other purposes connected with Education,” presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 5th June, and to be printed. [Bill 222.]

SUPPLY [10TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

£1,316,232, to complete the sum for Inland Revenue.

*MR. WEIR again called attention to the grievance as to dog licences in the crofter districts.

Mr. HANBURY said no doubt the tax should be administered in the same way all over the country, and he would see if the same principles could not be applied consistently everywhere.

Resolution agreed to.

CLASS II.

£9,446, to complete the sum for Lunacy Commission, England.

£67, to complete the sum for the Mint, including Coinage.

£9,274, to complete the sum for National Debt Office.

*MR. WEIR called attention to the fact that the officials connected with this Department were detained till five o'clock on Saturday afternoons, whereas those engaged in other Departments left at two o'clock.

Mr. HANBURY said he thought the honourable Member was mistaken in supposing that the other Departments always had a Saturday half-holiday. The Post Office was the only Department he knew of where there was a half-holiday every Saturday. The matter was one which was, to a great extent, left to the discretion of the heads of Departments.

Resolution agreed to.

£14,300, to complete the sum for Public Record Office.

£13, to complete the sum for Public Works Loan Commission.

£26,884, to complete the sum for Registrar-General's Office, England.

£36,393, to complete the sum for Works and Public Buildings Office.

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That a sum not exceeding £13,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services.”

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolutions to be reported upon Thursday 1st June; Committee to sit again upon Wednesday, 31st May.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House this day, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at a quarter after Six
of the clock till Wednesday,
day, 31st May.

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Amendt. = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers.
Com. = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. *Rep.* = Report. *S.* = Debate in Committee
of Supply. Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee
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Attorney-General—Rt. Hon. J. Atkinson.

Solicitor-General—Mr. D. P. Barton.

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*Q. Sir W. Priestley ; A. Mr. A. G. Murray
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*19, 1018.***RATING RETURNS, SCOTLAND**Q. Mr. Caldwell; A. Mr. A. G. Murray
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Qs. Mr. Maclean, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman; As. Mr. A. J. Balfour May 9, 157.

Despatch of 5th May, 1898—Signatures

Q. Sir H. H. Fowler; A. Lord G. Hamilton May 16, 734.

Papers relating to

Q. Mr. Maclean; A. Lord G. Hamilton May 8, 43.

SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS—Government Advertisements

Q. Mr. Pirie; A. Mr. Hanbury May 18, 926.

SUNDAY SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS, *See Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill.*

Sunderland Corporation Bill

l. Rep. from Select Com. May 16, 689.

SUPERANNUATION

Local Authorities Servants' Superannuation Bill, *See that Title.*

Poor Law Officers' Superannuation [Scotland] Bill, *See that Title.*

Workhouse Officials, Ireland

Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour May 12, 489.

SUPPLY—Civil Service and Revenue Departments Estimates

Foreign and other Secret Services—£13,000, *Com.* May 19, 1057.*

Inland Revenue—£1,316,232, *Com.* May 19, 1055.*

Lunacy Commission—£9,446, *Com.* May 19, 1056.*

Mint, including Coinage—£67, *Com.* May 19, 1056.*

National Debt Office—£9,274, *Com.* May 19, 1056.*

Public Record Office—£14,300, *Com.* May 19, 1056.*

Public Works and Buildings Office—£36,393, *Com.* May 19, 1056.*

Public Works Loan Commission—£13, *Com.* May 19, 1356.*

Registrar-General's Office—£26,884, *Com.* May 19, 1056.*

Trade and Subordinate Departments, Office of Committee of Privy Council—£133,098, *Rep. May 12, 544.*

Supreme Court [Appeals] Bill

c. Com. May 8, 127; May 11, 426; May 12, 543.*

3R. May 15, 688.*

Lords Amends. May 16, 835.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE ACT [IRELAND], Order in Council presented *May 18, 909.*

Surrey Commercial Docks Bill

c. Rep. May 12, 468.*

3R. May 16, 722.*

SUTHERLAND, J., CASE OF—Gun Licence Prosecution

Q. Mr. Hedderwick; A. Sir M. Hicks-Beach, May 16, 740.

SUTTON BARRACK SCHOOLS, Children begging on Derby Day

Q. Sir S. Montagu; A. Mr. Chaplin May 16, 739.

Taff Vale Railway Bill

l. 2R. May 16, 689.*

TALBOT, RT. HON. J. G. [Oxford University]

Fruit Preserving Industry, *May 8, 39; May 18, 928.*

Pen Trade, Application for "Particulars" *May 18, 928.*

TALIENWAN

Customs Service

Q. Mr. Yerburgh; A. Mr. Brodrick May 18, 921.

Police Administration

Q. Mr. Moon; A. Mr. Brodrick May 18, 921.

TAURANGA, H.M.S.—Visit to Tonga, etc.

Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. Brodrick May 16, 730.

TEA, DUTY ON—Finance Bill *May 11, 366.*

TEACHERS

National School Teachers, Ireland, *See that Title.*

Scotch Teachers

Marriage Gratuities for Female Teachers

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray May 12, 481.

Training Colleges

Os. Mr. Colville May 19, 1051; Mr. Caldwell, 1054.

Report

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Macartney May 19, 1021.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Agricultural and Technical Instruction [Ireland] Bill, *See that Title.*

Ireland—Science and Art Department Grants

Q. Capt. Donelan. A. Mr. G. W. Balfour May 19, 1032.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION—cont.

Scholarships, Science and Art Department
—Private Schools holding
Q. Sir J. Rankin; A. Sir J. Gorst
May 11, 336.

Scotland

Establishment of Technical Schools—
School Board Resolutions
Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G.
Murray *May 8, 32.*

Grant, *See* Secondary Education.

See also Secondary Education.

Teinds [Scotland] Bill

Petition *May 19, 1019.*

TELEGRAPHS

Cork Telegraph Staff, Increase in
Q. Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien; A. Mr.
Anstruther *May 11, 340.*

Inaccuracies—Liability of Postmaster-
General
Q. Mr. MacNeill; A. Mr. Hanbury
May 19, 1028.

Oldham—Delay in transmission
Q. Mr. Ascroft; A. Mr. Hanbury
May 15, 602.

Samshiri Telegraph Station
Q. Mr. Ascroft; A. Mr. Brodrick
May 11, 344.

**Telegraphs [Telephonic Communication,
etc.] Bill**

Extension to Non-county Boroughs, etc.
Q. Mr. Rickett; A. Mr. Hanbury
May 15, 603.

Petitions *May 10, 226; May 19, 1019.*

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Development—Treasury Minute ordered
[Mr. Hanbury] *May 11, 322.*

Innishowen Head—Violation of Coast-
guard Rules
Q. Mr. T. B. Curran; A. Mr. Anstru-
ther *May 11, 326.*

Post Office Telephone Exchanges—Return
Q. Sir J. Fergusson; A. Mr. Anstru-
ther *May 11, 339.*

Return presented *May 16, 835.*

Telegraphs [Telephonic Communication,
etc.], Bill, *See* that Title.

Wayleaves, Delay in granting
Q. Sir F. Flannery; A. Mr. Hanbury
May 16, 738.

TEMPERANCE REFORM, SCOTLAND, *See* Liquor
Traffic and Liquor Licensing Laws.

**Temperance Reform [Threelfold Option]
[Scotland] Bill**

Petitions *May 8, 29; May 9, 139; May 10,*
226; May 11, 320; May 12, 471; May 16,
727; May 18, 908.

TEMPORARY LAWS—Register presented *May 9,*
140.

TENNANT, MR. H. J. [Berwickshire]

North Sea Fisheries Conference *May 11,*
334.

Tenterden Railway Bill

l. Rep. May 15, 562.*

3R. May 18, 892.*

Terrible, H.M.S.—Boiler Repairs, Cost, etc.

Q. Sir E. Gourley; A. Mr. Goschen
May 12, 478.

TEYNHAM, LORD

Ritualistic Services at Brighton, Soldiers'
Compulsory Attendance *May 8, 10.*

THAMES IRON WORKS—Admiralty Contracts

Q. Mr. S. Buxton; A. Mr. Goschen
May 11, 327.

THOMAS, MR. D. A. [Merthyr Tydvil]

Glamorganshire, Military in—Cost of
Supplies—Reg. v. County Council *May 8,*
30.

Madagascar, British Trade with—French
Import Duties *May 15, 591.*

THORBURN, MR. W. [Peebles and Selkirk]

London Government Bill, *Com. May 16,*
821.

THORNTON, MR. P. M. [Clapham]

London Government Bill, *Com. May 16,*
780; May 18, 1001.

THRING, LORD

Infectious Diseases [Notification] Act
[1889] Extension Bill, *2R. May 9, 134.*

TIENTSIN TREATY—Customs Tariff Revision

Q. Sir M. Stewart; A. Mr. Brodrick *May*
15, 592.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE—Finance Bill, Vis-
count Cranborne's New Clause *May 12,*
533.

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Church Fund, Effect of Bill on
Q. Mr. Dillon; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour
May 15, 607.

Land Commission, Communications with
Q. Mr. Dillon; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour
May 18, 935.

TONGA, RELATIONS WITH—Visit of H.M.S.
Tauranga

Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. Brodrick *May 16,*
730.

Totland Water Bill

l. 3R. May 9, 131.*

c. 1R. May 12, 470.*

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TOURMALINE CASE—Prosecution of Major Spilsbury
Q. Mr. Hedderwick; A. Sir R. Webster
May 16, 736.

Town Councils [Scotland] Bill

Petitions *May 10, 226; May 11, 320; May 17, 889; May 19, 1019.*

TRADE AND COMMERCE

America, South, British Trade Prospects
Report presented *May 10, 227; May 12, 434.*

Foreign Countries and British Possessions,
Trade with—Annual Statement presented *May 11, 321; May 12, 434.*

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Madagascar, British Trade with—French
Import Duties
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Brodrick *May 15, 591.*

United States Tariff

Q. Mr. Coghill; A. Mr. Brodrick,
May 8, 35.

TRADE, BOARD OF

President, Rt. Hon. C. T. Ritchie.
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Dudley.

Clerks, Granting Civil Service Certificates
Q. Mr. E. Gray; A. Mr. Ritchie *May 11, 331.*

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Q. Col. Dalbiac; A. Mr. Ritchie *May 18, 923.*

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TRADE MARKS, PATENTS AND DESIGNS

Report presented *May 16, 727, 889;
May 18, 910.*

TRADE REPORTS PRESENTED

Annual Series *May 8, 5, 30; May 10, 227;
May 11, 322; May 12, 433; May 16, 691,
728; May 19, 1020.*

Miscellaneous Series *May 10, 227; May 12,
433.*

[For names of Countries, *see their Titles.*]

TRAINING COLLEGES FOR SCOTCH TEACHERS

Os. Mr. Colville, *May 19, 1051; Mr.
Caldwell, 1054.*

Report

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray
May 19, 1031.

TRAIN WRECKERS, NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS

Q. Mr. Ascroft; A. Sir M. W. Ridley *May 11, 351.*

TRAMWAYS, BILLS RELATING TO, *See their
Titles.*

TRANSVAAL

Arrests of British Subjects

Q. Mr. Griffith; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain *May 16, 836; Q. Mr. Scott;
A. Mr. J. Chamberlain May 19, 1024.*

Bloemfontein Conference, Date and Purpose of Meeting

Q. Mr. Buxton; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain *May 18, 919.*

British Indian Traders, Disabilities, etc.

Address for Return [Sir W. Wedderburn] *May 11, 322.*

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Q. Sir M. Blownaggee; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain *May 19, 1025.*

British Interference—Conventions of 1881 and 1884, etc.

O. Mr. J. B. Roberts *May 19, 1051.*

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Q. Capt. Bethell; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain *May 8, 55.*

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Q. Mr. J. B. Roberts; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour *May 8, 52.*

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Correspondence presented *May 18, 909.*

London Convention, Infringement of

Q. Mr. J. B. Roberts; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain *May 8, 50; Q. Dr. Clark; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain May 12, 477; Q. Mr. J. B. Roberts; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain May 18, 918.*

Papers relating to

O. Mr. J. Chamberlain *May 19, 1033.*

Naturalisation of British Subjects—Abandoning Allegiance to England

Q. Mr. J. B. Roberts; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain *May 18, 917.*

Petition to the Queen—Sir A. Milner's Action

O. Mr. Griffith *May 16, 736; Q. Mr. Griffith; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain May 19, 1024.*

Transvaal Mortgage Loan and Finance Company Bill

l. Rep. from Select Com. May 8, 3.

TRAVERS' FOUNDATION — Income and Expenditure, Statement presented *May 11, 322; May 12, 434.*

Trawlers' Certificates Suspension Bill

Nomination of Select Committee *May 12, 446.*

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Danish Waters, Arrest of British Trawler in

Q. Mr. Doughty; A. Mr. Brodrick *May 8, 47.*

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Illegal Trawling in Scottish Waters—
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bour

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Lights—Regulations, *S. May 12*, 545.

TREASURY

Premier—Marquess of Salisbury.

First Lord—Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour.

Secretary—Rt. Hon. Sir W. H. Walrond.

Financial Secretary—Rt. Hon. R. W.
Hanbury.

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TROPICAL MEDICINE, SCHOOL OF—Arrow

Poisons and their Antidotes, Study of

Q. Mr. Hedderwick; A. Mr. J. Chamber-
lain *May 16*, 735.

Trout Fishing Annual Close Time [Scot-
land] Bill

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TUBERCULOSIS—Inspection of Slaughtered
Cattle at Deptford, etc.

Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Chaplin *May*
19, 1026.

TUGWELL, BISHOP—Prosecution for Libel

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438, 439.

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Q. Mr. M^cCartan; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour
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UNDERSIZED FISH—Legislation

Q. Mr. Doughty; A. Mr. Hanbury
May 19, 1030.

UNITED STATES

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Q. Mr. Kimber; A. Mr. Austruther
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Spain—British Consul in charge of
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May 19, 1023.

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Q. Mr. Coghill; A. Mr. Brodrick
May 8, 35.

Trade Report presented, *May 12*, 433.

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Q. Mr. H. Johnstone; A. Sir M. W.
Ridley *May 15*, 598.

URUGUAY—British Trade prospects, Report
presented *May 10*, 227; *May 12*, 434.Uxbridge and Rickmansworth Railway
Bill

c. Rep.* *May 12*, 467.

Con.* *May 17*, 887.

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l. 1R.* *May 18*, 894.

UXBRIDGE AND RICKMANSWORTH RAILWAY
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Vale of Glamorgan Railway Bill*l. Rep.* May 12, 430.**3R.* May 15, 562.***VAN, DISTRESS IN—Relief Work, etc.***Q. Mr. Stevenson; A. Mr. Brodrick May 18, 921.***VINCENT, SIR H. [Sheffield, Central]***Dangerous Trades Committee, Evidence May 12, 472.***Volunteers***Brigade System, Reorganisation May 16, 730.**Musketry Practice Regulations May 12, 480.***Wine Duties***Colonial Wines, Concession May 16, 741.**Finance Bill May 11, 369, 386.***VIVISECTION CERTIFICATES—Compulsory use of Anæsthetics***Q. Mr. Paulton; A. Sir M. W. Ridley May 9, 151.***VOELCKER, DR.—Appointment as Agricultural Examiner, Ireland***Q. Mr. Daly; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour May 12, 488.***VOLUNTEERS***Annual Return presented May 8, 5, 29.**Brigade System, Reorganisation, etc.**Q. Sir H. Vincent; A. Mr. Wyndham May 16, 730; Q. Mr. Cubitt; A. Mr. Wyndham May 18, 911.***Musketry Practice Regulations***Q. Sir H. Vincent; A. Mr. Wyndham May 12, 480.***Railway Conveyance***Q. Mr. Malcolm; A. Mr. Wyndham May 18, 912.***Recruiting from***Os. Earl of Wemyss, Marquess of Lansdowne, Duke of Northumberland May 15, 565.***Wakefield Corporation Bill***l. Rep. from Select Com. May 8, 3.**3R.* May 16, 690.**c. 1R.* May 18, 943.***WALLACE, MR. R. [Perth]***London Government Bill, Com. May 8, 65; May 18, 998, 1000, 1002.***Wallasey Tramways and Improvements Bill***c. Con.* May 9, 136.**3R.* May 12, 451.**l. Commons Amendts. May 15, 563.***WALROND, RIGHT HON. SIR W. H.—Secretary to the Treasury [Devon, Tiverton]***Seats for Shop Assistants [England and Ireland] Bill, 2R. May 9, 224.***WALTHAM GOVERNMENT FACTORY, Over-time in***Q. Mr. E. Cecil; A. Mr. J. P. Williams May 18, 911.***WALTON, MR. J. [York, W.R., Barnsley] China***Pekin-Hankau Railway—Entrance to Yang-tze Valley May 18, 919.**Pekin-Manchurian Railway—Russian Demand May 15, 593.**Yang-tze Valley—Boundary Delimitation May 18, 920.**Workmen's Compensation Act—Doctors' Examinations May 18, 927.***WALTON, MR. L. [Leeds, S.]***London Government Bill, Com. May 18, 1003.***WARD AND M'CABE v. GUARDIANS OF GLENTIES UNION, Fever Outbreak—Burning Infected Houses***Q. Mr. MacNeill; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour May 11, 347.***WAR***Secretary of State—Marquess of Lansdowne.**Under Secretary—Mr. Wyndham.**Financial Secretary—Mr. J. P. Williams.***WAR OFFICE***New Buildings, Model for Members' Inspection**Q. Marquess of Lothian; A. Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery May 12, 446.***WARR, MR. A. F. [Liverpool, Toxteth, E.]***Marine Insurance—Date of Introduction of Bill May 11, 333.**WASHHOUSES, See Baths and Washhouses Acts Amendment Bill.**WASTE LAND ORDINANCES IN CEYLON, See Ceylon.***Water Orders Confirmation Bill***l. 2R.* May 18, 895.***WATER SUPPLY***Bills relating to, See their Titles.**Inver, Unsatisfactory State of**Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray May 8, 41.**Railway Stations, S. May 12, 545.***WATER-TIGHT DOORS FOR SHIPS***Q. Col. Lockwood; A. Mr. Goschen May 11, 325.***WEBSTER, MR. R. G. [St. Pancras, E.]***London Government Bill, Com. May 8, 68, 82, 104; May 9, 182, 204, 212; May 15, 615, 647, 665.*

